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20 JUL 1927
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS CLUB.

BRITISH MUSEUM
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NATUPAL HISTORY

EDITED BY

N. B. KINNEAR.

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PREFACE.

The total number of attendances at the meetings of the Club for 1926–27 was 338 members and 99 guests, making a total of 437—a slight increase from the previous year.

During the past session Monsieur J. Delacour described in the 'Bulletin' seventy-one new species and subspecies, which were obtained by the second and third Franco-British Expedition to that ornithologically little-known part of Asia, French Indo-China.

Mr. Sclater and Mr. Stuart Baker have continued to bring to the notice of the Club their researches in the avifauna of Ethiopia and the Indian Region respectively, while Mr. D. A. Bannerman, the Hon. M. Hachisuka, Mr. H. C. Robinson, Mr. G. M. Mathews, Prof. Suskin, and others have contributed to our knowledge of systematic ornithology in different parts of the globe.

In a short note Dr. C. B. Ticehurst drew the attention of Members to a neglected aspect of distribution of birds, *e.g.*, the relation which a species has to the soil upon which it breeds. The factors governing the anomalous distribution of certain Short-toed Larks was taken as an instance.

Mr. Bunyard gave an account of some further investigations, which he and Mr. Scholey had made in regard to the breeding-habits of the Cuckoo, and at a later meeting gave an exhibition of eggs, illuminated from within, to show the pigmentation.

An interesting address on the habits of the Australian Bower-Birds was delivered by Mr. W. B. Alexander, Vice-President of the R. A. O. U., and his remarks were illustrated by a number of objects collected by these birds.

At the concluding meeting of the session Lord Rothschild read some notes on the formation of dark races by mutation, and explained his theory by means of a number of water-coloured drawings and a large series of specimens from different families.

We should like to take this opportunity of expressing to Lord Rothschild how much the members of the Club appreciate the exhibits he from time to time brings to the Club, in the preparation of which he spares neither time nor trouble.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Dennis Cox and Mr. Henry Munt during the past session. Mr. Munt will be much missed—he was one of the original members of the Club and was a regular attendant at the meetings. For many years he acted as honorary Auditor and served on the Committee from 1917 to 1920.

N. B. KINNEAR,
Editor.

London, July 1927.

RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(*As amended, October 8th,* 1924.)

I. This Club was founded for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Any Member of that Union can become a Member of this Club on payment (to the Treasurer) of an entrance fee of *One Pound* and a subscription of *One Guinea* for the current Session. Resignation of the Union involves resignation of the Club.

II. Members who have not paid their subscriptions before the last Meeting of the Session, shall cease, *ipso facto,* to be Members of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

III. Ordinary Members of the British Ornithologists' Union may be introduced as Visitors at the Meetings of the Club, but every Member of the Club who introduces a Member of the B. O. U. as a Visitor (to the dinner or to the Meeting afterwards) shall pay *One Shilling* to the Treasurer *on each occasion.*

IV. No gentleman shall be allowed to attend the Meetings of the Club as a guest on more than three occasions during any single Session ; and no former Member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription or any other cause shall be allowed to attend as a guest. Ladies are not admitted as guests.

V. The Club shall meet, as a rule, on the Second Wednesday in every Month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee. But should such Wednesday happen to be Ash Wednesday, the Meeting will take place on the Wednesday following. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects shall be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

VI. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the B. O. C. shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member *who has paid his subscription.* Copies of this Bulletin shall be published and sold at *Two Shillings* each to Members.

Descriptions of new species may be added to the last page of the 'Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the 'Bulletin' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently to amplify his remarks in the 'Bulletin'; but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

VII. The affairs of this Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of the Chairman, who shall be elected for three years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of one year, but shall be eligible for re-election, with four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two others be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee, nominated for the ensuing year, shall be circulated with the preliminary notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

Amendments to the Standing Rules of the Club, as well as very important or urgent matters, shall be submitted to Members, to be voted upon at a General Meeting.

VIII. A General Meeting of the B. O. C. shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

IX. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

COMMITTEE 1926–1927.

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* Elected 1924.
N. B. Kinnear, *Editor of the 'Bulletin.'* Elected 1925.
Dr. G. Carmichael Low, *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.* Elected 1923.
C. B. Ticehurst. Elected 1924.
C. Oldham. Elected 1924.
G. M. Mathews. Elected 1925.
Major Stanley Flower. Elected 1926.

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W. L. Sclater.	1918–1924.
H. F. Witherby.	1924–

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D. Seth-Smith.	1915–1920.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1920–1925.
N. B. Kinnear.	1925–

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D. A. Bannerman.	1918–1919.
Dr. Philip Gosse.	1919–1920.
J. L. Bonhote.	1920–1922
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1922–1923
Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1923–

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New Members for the Session .. 10
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[Members are specially requested to keep the Hon. Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses, and Members residing abroad should give early notification of coming home on leave.]

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20 JUL 1927
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NATURAL HISTORY

Bird Room

18 NOV 1926
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BULLETIN

BRITISH MUSEUM
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NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCVIII.

The three-hundred-and-third Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, October 13th, 1926.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; Miss M. G. S. Best; Dr. J. O. Beven; S. Boorman; P. F. Bunyard; Captain H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; N. Coltart; Sir Percy Cox; J. Cunningham; R. H. Deane; A. H. Evans; A. Ezra; Major S. S. Flower; The Hon. M. Hachisuka; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; Dr. E. Hopkinson; L. M. Jopling; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); J. Spedan Lewis; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe; N. S. Lucas; Admiral H. Lynes; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; C. Oldham; G. H. R. Pye-Smith; F. R. Ratcliff; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; W. G. Stuart-Menteth; C. G. Talbot-

Ponsonby ; W. H. Thorpe ; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst ; L. J. Turtle ; H. M. Wallis ; J. Sladen Wing.

Guests present :—B. B. Osmaston ; Dr. Ernst Schwarz ; H. Guthrie Smith ; Marquis of Tavistock ; V. Williams.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This was held at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, immediately preceding the Dinner. Mr. H. F. Witherby took the Chair. The Minutes of the last General Meeting were read and confirmed. The Financial Statement, which had already been printed and circulated, was laid before the Meeting and was duly passed. Dr. G. C. Low reported that the following members had resigned from the Club : W. Russell Brain, E. P. Chance, H. K. Horsfield, G. H. Lings, S. F. Stewart, Mrs. R. H. Thomas ; and that the following had died : J. Davidson, H. Munt, M. J. Nicoll, H. K. Swann, C. J. Wilson. Mr. Frohawk was removed from the Club under rule I., and Mr. L. R. W. Loyd under rule II.

Dr. G. C. Low was re-elected Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Major S. S. Flower was elected a Member of the Committee in place of Mr. H. M. Wallis, retiring through seniority.

The Chairman referred with deep regret, which he was sure the members would share, to the death of Mr. Henry Munt, which occurred on the 21st of September.

Mr. Munt had been a very regular attendant at the meetings of the Club for many years, had served on the Committee, and frequently audited the accounts. Mr. Munt collected white eggs — a rather curious and unusual speciality.

Mr. A. H. Evans proposed, and the Rev. J. R. Hale seconded, that a letter of condolence should be sent to Mrs. Munt.

The Meeting then adjourned to Dinner.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Twelve months' Financial Statement, 1st September, 1925, to 31st August, 1926.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance in Hand, 1st September, 1925:—			By Printing and Distribution of Publications and 'Bulletin'		136 8 4
Cash in Bank	311 11 10		„ Hire of Lanterns for Annual Dinner with B.O.U., etc.		7 7 6
In Hands of Treasurer	1 18 8		„ Contribution to Zoological Society Record		11 5 0
		313 10 6	„ Miscellaneous Expenses, including Audit Fee and Postage		10 18 9
„ Entrance Fees of 14 New Subscribers.....	9 0 0		Total Payments		165 19 7
„ Subscriptions—189 Members	196 7 0				
		205 7 0	„ Balance in Hand, 31st August, 1926:—		
„ Sales of 'Bulletin'		39 13 5	Cash at Bank, Current a/c.	139 7 5	
„ Bank Interest		6 1 4	do. Deposit a/c.....	256 1 4	
			In Hands of Treasurer	3 3 11	
					398 12 8
		£564 12 3			£564 12 3

We have compared the foregoing Statement with the books and vouchers of the British Ornithologists' Club for the year ended 31 August, 1926, and certify same to be in accordance therewith. We have also verified the balance of Cash at the Bank.

23 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C. 4.
15*th September*, 1926.

W. B. KEEN & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Committee, 1926–1927.

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman* (elected 1924).
N. B. Kinnear, *Editor* (elected 1925).
G. C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treasurer* (elected 1923).
C. B. Ticehurst (elected 1924).
C. Oldham (elected 1924).
G. M. Mathews (elected 1925).
S. S. Flower (elected 1926).

Proceedings at the Meeting following the Dinner.

Chairman's Address.

Members of the B. O. C.,—

Before proceeding with my brief review of the chief ornithological activities during the last twelve months, I must refer with deep regret to the loss by death of the following members :—M. J. Nicoll (Oct. 31, 1925), C. J. Wilson (Nov. 12, 1925), H. Kirke Swann (April 14, 1926), H. Munt (Sept. 21, 1926).

The chief event of the year was the Sixth International Ornithological Congress, which took place at Copenhagen from May 24th to 29th under the able presidency of our most learned ornithologist, Dr. Ernst Hartert. The Congress was well attended, though some of our members (of whom I was one) were unfortunately unable to attend owing to matters arising out of the General Strike. A large number of papers were read and interesting discussions took place, while our Danish friends were liberal in their entertainment, and were able to show the members many interesting birds both in life and in private collections in Copenhagen, especially that of Mr. E. Lehn Schiöler with its unique series of Arctic birds.

Mention must also be made of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Dutch Ornithologists' Union, which took place just before the International Congress and was attended by the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain as delegate of the B. O. U. and by others of our members.

Turning now to ornithological work in the field. The

expedition to French Indo-China, which I mentioned last year, has resulted in a large amount of interesting facts and material being collected, and Mons. M. J. Delacour and Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe are now on their way back to that region to continue their investigations. The collections have been divided between the British and French museums, and some of the results of the second expedition will be exhibited by Mr. N. B. Kinnear to-night. Rear-Admiral H. Lynes, who has been making a very exhaustive museum study of the genus *Cisticola*, is now starting with Mr. B. B. Osmaston to Africa with the object of studying those species of the genus with which he is unacquainted in life—first, in various parts of the Southern Hemisphere (including, it is hoped, Angola), and subsequently in Kenya Colony during the breeding-season there. Admiral Lynes this summer revisited the Syd Varanger, as did Dr. H. Blair. Mr. J. H. McNeile and Mr. R. Chislett did oological and photographic work in Norwegian Lapland. The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain again travelled in Algeria and South Tunisia. Mr. H. Whistler visited South Spain, and afterwards with Dr. C. B. Ticehurst studied birds in the Pyrénés Orientales. Major W. M. Congreve made a trip to Transylvania and spent a short time in the Dobrogea, while Mr. W. E. Glegg once again worked in the Camargue. Col. W. A. Payn made collections in Corsica, and Dr. Cushman Murphy, who was in Europe for the Congress, also visited some of the less-known islands in the western Mediterranean. Mr. G. L. Bates has returned to the Cameroons and intends to make a further journey to Lake Tchad.

Dr. Hugo Granvik has gone out to explore Mount Elgon for a second time. Mr. J. P. Chapin, of the American Museum of Natural History, is proceeding to Ruwenzori, and intends subsequently to travel south to the Cape. For the Field Museum of Chicago an expedition, under the leadership of Dr. W. H. Osgood and with Mr. A. M. Bailey specializing on the birds, has proceeded to Abyssinia, with the Highlands as the special objective. Africa is drawing yet another American ornithologist in Mr. H. B. Conover, who is visiting

Kenya. Herr Paul Spatz has made an expedition to the Rio de Oro, the results of which have been described by Dr. E. Stresemann.

Mr. G. K. Cherrie has made a large collection of birds in the Pamirs for the Field Museum. Mr. A. Eichhorn was again starting to collect for the Tring Museum in North-eastern New Guinea, but has, I regret to hear, been struck down by paralysis. South America is receiving continued attention, and in the Pacific Mr. R. H. Beck's researches are still proceeding.

Of ornithological works mentioned in my last address as being in course of publication, Mr. J. C. Phillips's fine work, 'The Natural History of the Ducks,' is the only one which has been completed. While Mr. Phillips has thus dealt with the Ducks of the world, Mr. A. C. Bent, by issuing another volume of 'The Life-histories of North American Birds,' has completed his account of the Ducks of that region. There are still two parts of 'The Birds of Australia' to be published before Mr. G. M. Mathews finishes the great task which has occupied him since 1910. Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker, having published the third volume of the "Birds" in 'The Fauna of India,' has now completed his account of the large number of Passerine forms found in that region. Mr. J. D. D. La Touche has brought out two more parts of his 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China' and Dr. W. E. Collinge two more parts of his 'Food of some British Wild Birds,' while Mr. A. Thorburn has added another volume to the octavo edition of his 'British Birds.' Finally, Dr. C. E. Hellmayr has added a part to the 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas' and Dr. E. D. van Oort has completed Vol. II. of his important work, 'De Vogels van Nederland.'

All the new works issued during the year have been single volumes, and of these several which I shall mention are of considerable ornithological importance. Dr. Jonathan Dwight has published as a Bulletin of the American Museum his valuable work on 'The Gulls (Laridæ) of the World,' the important feature of which lies in the comparative

descriptions and figures not only of the adults but also of the successive plumages of the young. Mr. G. Heilmann has given us in English in 'The Origin of Birds' an excellently clear account of his views on this subject, which have attracted much attention. Sir Frederick J. Jackson's 'Notes on the Game-Birds of Kenya and Uganda,' which includes not only the true game-birds but also Sandgrouse, Pigeon, Snipe, Bustards, Geese, and Ducks, will be welcomed not only by ornithologists but by many sportsmen and others who visit or live in East Africa. Dr. N. Kuroda has brought out a fine 'Monograph of the Pheasants of Japan, including Korea and Formosa.' Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, in 'Problems of Bird Migration,' has shown in an admirably clear manner the present state of our knowledge in this difficult but fascinating subject. Mr. Collingwood Ingram's 'Birds of the Riviera' and the 'List of Birds of British Columbia' by Major Allan Brooks and Mr. H. S. Walter are two useful faunal works which must be mentioned, while Mr. E. M. Nicholson, in his well-written 'Birds in England,' has given us much food for thought, and doubtless also for criticism and discussion, concerning the relations between birds and Man. Volume I. of a useful handbook on keeping birds in captivity has been published under the auspices of the Avicultural Society and La Société Nationale d'Acclimatation, in English as 'Aviculture' and in French as 'Les Oiseaux.' Another book of special interest to aviculturalists is Dr. Emilius Hopkinson's 'Records of Birds bred in Captivity.'

In the space of this brief survey it is possible to mention only separate works, and therefore I can merely remark generally that the numerous papers which have appeared during the year in ornithological journals and elsewhere have for the most part reached a high standard of excellence, and much valuable matter has been published in this form.

In conclusion, I must once more express my indebtedness to those friends who have kindly given me assistance in compiling this review.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear, on behalf of M. J. Delacour, exhibited some of the types of the new species and subspecies discovered during the Franco-British Expedition to French Indo-China as well as two examples of *Pitta elliotti* from the same source.

Descriptions of the following thirty-one new species and subspecies from Annam and Laos were sent by M. J. Delacour :—

Arborophila rufogularis laotinus, subsp. nov.

Differs from *A. r. tickelli* (Hume), which it most resembles, in the richer hues and more distinct markings. Those of the wings are larger and darker and on the sides of the body they are brighter chestnut ; the black spots on the hind-neck form a more distinct collar, while those on the sides are more numerous and the grey of the breast is darker and of a bluer slate-colour.

Iris brown ; bill black ; legs and feet crimson.

Measurements :— ♂. Wing 138 to 150 mm. ; tail 60 to 65 ; tarsus 30 to 35 : culmen 17 to 18.

♀. Wing 136 to 146 mm. ; tail 59 to 62 ; tarsus 30 to 34 ; culmen 16 to 17.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 5. i. 26 and 25. xii. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1577 and 1286.

Material examined. 9 ♂ ♂, 6 ♀ ♀. Dec. 24, 1925, to Jan. 5, 1926.

Arborophila brunneipectus neveni, subsp. nov.

From other forms this race is distinguished by the more vivid general colour and the larger, brighter, and better-defined markings on the back and flanks.

Iris brown ; bill black ; legs and feet bright pink.

Measurements :— ♂. Wing 135 to 159 mm. ; tail 65 to 72 ; tarsus 35 to 38 ; culmen 18 to 20.

♀. Wing 140 to 152 mm. ; tail 63 to 68 ; tarsus 35 to 37 ; culmen 18 to 20.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 25 and 28. xii. 1925. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1287 and 1370.

Material examined. 13 ♂ ♂, 4 ♀ ♀. Dec. 16, 1925, to Jan. 13, 1926.

(Named in honour of M. A. Neven, Director of the Zoological and Botanical Gardens at Saigon.)

Tropicoperdix merlini vivida, subsp. nov.

Resembles *T. m. merlini* Delacour & Jabouille, from Quangtu, in the bright yellow legs and feet, but differs in the much larger size, brighter and more distinct markings, and much more olivaceous general colour.

Iris brown ; bill yellowish-horn with red base ; legs and feet bright yellow.

Measurements :—♂. Wing 161 mm. ; tail 86 ; tarsus 35 ; culmen 18.

Type in the French Museum. ♂. Col des Nuages (Annam), Feb. 10, 1926. Collected by J. Delacour, No. 1899.

Francolinus pintadeanus wellsi, subsp. nov.

Differs from *F. p. pintadeanus* (Scop.) in its larger size, brighter colours, more distinct markings, its black forehead, and especially the broader stripes from the gape to the sides of the neck. One Yunnanese specimen in the British Museum comes very near it, but lacks the broad black facial stripes.

Iris brown ; bill black ; legs and feet yellow.

Measurements :—♂. Wing 155 mm. ; tail 80 ; tarsus 40 ; culmen 25.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Kontoum (Annam), Mar. 6, 1926. Collected by J. Delacour, No. 2.185. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.1.

(Named in honour of Mr. T. Wells, of the British Museum Natural History.)

Sphenurus sphenurus annamensis, subsp. nov.

Near *S. s. robinsoni* (Ogilvie-Grant), from Gunong Tahan (Malay States), but differs in having the back less tinged

with grey, the throat of a lighter yellowish-green, and the under tail-coverts entirely honey-yellow.

Iris, inner ring light blue, outer ring pinkish-yellow ; bill blue, tip grey ; legs and feet crimson.

Measurements :—♂. Wing 159 to 171 mm. ; tail 117 to 128 ; tarsus 17 to 19 ; culmen 17 to 19.

♀. Wing 150 to 157 mm. ; tail 108 to 118 ; tarsus 17 to 18 ; culmen 16.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Kontoum and Hué (Annam), 1. iii. 26 and 17. vii. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 2042 and 276. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.2 & 3.

Material examined. 5 ♂ ♂ and 2 ♀ ♀. Kontoum, Dakto, and Hue (Annam), June 17, 1925, to March 19, 1926.

Sphenurus siemundi modestus, subsp. nov.

Differs from *S. s. siemundi* Rob., from Semango Pass (Malay States), in the absence of the orange patches on the sides of the neck.

Iris, inner ring light blue, outer ring yellow ; bill, skin round the eye, and lores blue ; tip of bill grey ; legs and feet dark vermilion.

Measurements :—♂. Wing 160 mm. ; tail 164 to 175 ; tarsus 16 to 17 ; culmen 19.

♀. Wing 152 to 158 mm. ; tail 130 to 169 ; tarsus 16 to 17 ; culmen 17 to 18.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Hue (Annam), 18 & 27. vi. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 192 and 234. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.4 & 5.

Material examined. 2 ♂ ♂ and 4 ♀ ♀. Hue June 22 to July 17, 1925.

Sphenurus apicauda laotianus, subsp. nov.

Near *S. a. apicauda* (Blyth), but decidedly paler ; back more mealy-green, throat yellower, and the orange wash on the breast of the male paler.

Iris, inner ring light blue ; outer ring pinkish-yellow ; bill, skin round the eyes and lores blue ; tip of bill grey ; legs and feet crimson.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 162 to 170 mm.; tail 175 to 190; tarsus 18 to 20; culmen 21.

♀. Wing 161 to 162 mm.; tail 182 to 187; tarsus 18 to 20; culmen 18 to 19.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 22 & 19. xii. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1238 and 1146.

Material examined. 3♂ ♂ and 2♀ ♀. Xieng-Khouang, Dec. 19 to 25, 1925.

Ketupa ceylonensis orientalis, subsp. nov.

Specimens from Annam and Laos differ in being darker above, with larger and blacker markings, and the ground-colour of the underparts more buff and not so yellow.

Iris yellow; bill greenish-horn; culmen blackish; legs and feet grey.

Measurements:—♀. Wing 395 to 400 mm.; tail 205 to 210; tarsus 70; culmen 46 to 47.

Type in the British Museum. ♀. Dakto (Annam), 14. iii. 26. Collected by J. Delacour, No. 2352. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.6.

Material examined. 2♀ ♀. Dakto and Xieng-Khouang, Jan. 1st to March 14th, 1926.

Obs. Specimens previously collected in Annam belong to the present race.

Strix newarensis laotianus, subsp. nov.

Differs from *S. n. newarensis* (Hodgs.) in the darker colour of the upperside, especially the head, and the rather more buff tint of the underparts. The facial disc is uniform reddish-buff.

Iris yellow; bill grey, legs and feet entirely feathered; greenish-white underneath.

Measurements:—Wing 377 mm.; tail 254; tarsus 56; culmen 39.

Type in the British Museum. ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), Dec. 20, 1925. Collected by J. Delacour, No. 1160. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.7.

Picus chlorolophus laotianus, subsp. nov.

This race is near *P. c. rodgersi* (Hartert & Butler), but brighter green above; it differs from the other races in having the upper parts of a darker and more olive-green colour above, and the crest lemon-yellow.

Iris red; bill dark grey, with yellow base; legs and feet grey.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 134 to 137 mm.; tail 104 to 117; tarsus 18; culmen 25 to 26.

♀. Wing 137 mm.; tail 110; tarsus 15 to 19; culmen 23 to 25.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 18. xii. 25 and 5. i. 26. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1103 and 1568. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.8 & 9.

Material examined. 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀ ♀. Xieng-Khouang, Dec. 12, 1925, to Jan. 5, 1926.

Pitta cyanea willoughbyi, subsp. nov.

The Pitta found in Laos agrees with the male in the British Museum obtained by C. B. Kloss in South Annam, which, as pointed out by Stuart-Baker, differs widely from typical *P. c. cyanea*. Both sexes are much brighter in colour. In the male the red of the crown is bright scarlet and the blue of the upper parts rich ultramarine, while the breast is strongly tinged with red, instead of washed with yellow. The females are almost as bright as the males of *P. c. cyanea*, and have no red tinge on the breast.

Iris brown; bill black; legs and feet horny-flesh colour.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 115 mm.; tail 60; tarsus 40; culmen 23.

♀. Wing 114 mm.; tail 54 to 58; tarsus 38 to 39; culmen 22 to 23.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 13. i. 26 and 28. xii. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1750 and 1358.

Material examined. 1♂, 2♀ ♀. Dec. 28, 1925, to Jan. 13, 1926.

(Named in honour of our fellow-collector, Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe.)

Lanius collurioides melanocephalus, subsp. nov.

Differs from specimens from Burma, Siam, and Central Annam in the sooty-black colour of the head and hind-neck, which fades to dark grey on the lower part of the neck, and the richer chestnut of the mantle.

Iris brown ; bill black, greyish at the base ; legs and feet black.

Measurements :— ♂. Wing 87 to 89 mm.; tail 94 to 105 ; tarsus 21 to 23 ; culmen 12 to 13.

♀. Wing 85 mm.; tail 100 ; tarsus 22 ; culmen 12.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Dalat et Phantiet (South Annam), 5 & 13. x. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 589 and 533. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.10 & 11.

Material examined. 3 ♂ ♂ and 1 ♀. Phantiet and Dalat, Oct. 5 to 13, 1925.

Lanius collurioides griseicapillus, subsp. nov.

Differs from other races in having the head and hind-neck of a pale grey and the mantle of a lighter chestnut. The female is darker than the male.

Iris brown ; bill black, base greyish ; legs and feet black.

Measurements :— ♂. Wing 90 mm. ; tail 100 ; tarsus 22 ; culmen 13.

♀. Wing 92 mm. ; tail 102 ; tarsus 23 ; culmen 12.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 20 & 21. xii. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1209 and 1179. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.12 & 13.

Hemixus flavala bourdellei, subsp. nov.

Differs widely from other races, including *H. f. davisoni* found in Central Annam, in the pure black colour of the crown, crest, lores, and cheeks. The upper parts are of a slightly olive-grey, with no brown tinge. The rump, under wing-coverts, vent, and under tail-coverts are tinged with yellow and the underparts are whiter. It is altogether a much brighter bird.

Iris reddish-brown ; bill, legs, and feet black.

Measurements :—♂. Wing 98 to 105 mm. ; tail 92 to 100 ; tarsus 12 ; culmen 15 to 17.

♀. Wing 96 to 101 mm. ; tail 92 to 94; tarsus 12 to 14 ; culmen 15 to 16.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 22 . xii. 25 and 10. i. 26. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1237 and 1412.

Material examined. 4 ♂ ♂, 5 ♀ ♀. Dec. 18, 1925, to Jan. 10, 1926.

(Named in honour of Dr. A. Bourdelle, Professor of Mammalogy and Ornithology in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle.)

Xanthixus flavescens berliozi, subsp. nov.

Differs from other forms, including *X. f. vividus* Baker, in being much more brightly coloured. The yellow tinge on the underparts is golden, the whole abdomen is yellow and the throat more spotted with grey.

Iris brown ; bill, legs, and feet black.

Measurements :—♂. Wing 90 to 91 mm. ; tail 106 to 109 ; tarsus 14 to 16 ; culmen 11 to 13.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 26 & 28. xii. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1306 and 1353.

Material examined. 3 ♂ ♂, 2 ♀ ♀. Dec. 24 to 28, 1925.

(Named in honour of M. J. Berlioz, Assistant of Mammalogy and Ornithology in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle.)

Spizixus canifrons laotianus, subsp. nov.

Nearer to *S. c. ingrami* La Touche, from Milati (Yunnan), but differs from all other races in having a blackish-grey throat, surrounded by light grey, which separates it clearly from the green breast.

Iris brown ; bill ivory-white ; legs and feet pinkish-brown.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 98 mm.; tail 98; tarsus 16; culmen 12.

♀. Wing 92 to 93 mm.; tail 92 to 97; tarsus 15 to 17; culmen 11 to 12.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Noug-Het (Laos), 13 & 14. xii. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1020 and 1040. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.15 & 16.

Material examined. 1 ♂, 2 ♀ ♀. Noug-Het and Xieng-Khouang (Laos), Dec. 13 to 27, 1925.

Dryonastes varennei, sp. nov.

Resembles *D. castanotis* Ogilvie-Grant, from Hainan, but differs in its superior size, darker blackish-brown throat, paler grey forehead, more olive-grey back and wings, and especially in the chestnut patch on the ear-coverts being smaller and surrounded above and behind by a white line.

Iris reddish-brown; bill, legs, and feet black.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 125 to 134 mm.; tail 130 to 139; tarsus 43 to 46; culmen 21 to 24.

♀. Wing 128 to 135 mm.; tail 128 to 135; tarsus 42 to 46; culmen 21 to 23.

Sex? Wing 137 mm.; tail 150; tarsus 45; culmen 23.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 8.i. 26 and 25.xii. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1648 and 1284.

Material examined. 7 ♂ ♂, 9 ♀ ♀, and 1 not sexed. Dec. 25, 1925, to Jan. 8, 1926.

(Named in honour of H.E. M. A. Varenne, Governor-General of Indo-China.)

Garrulax gularis auratus, subsp. nov.

Resembles *G. g. gularis* McClell., from Upper Burma, but has the whole plumage more tinged with yellow. The head and neck are olive-grey; the upper parts of a yellower chestnut; underparts of a much lighter yellow, the flanks being olive-green; and the abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts light chestnut with a yellow tinge.

Iris red or orange; bill black or black with a yellowish base; legs and feet yellow.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 102 mm.; tail 110; tarsus 36; culmen 25.

♀. Wing 100 to 101 mm.; tail 106; tarsus 36; culmen 25 to 26.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 8. i. 26. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1646 and 1642.

Material examined. 1 ♂ and 2 ♀ ♀. Jan. 3 to 8, 1926.

Pomatorhinus tickelli laotianus, subsp. nov.

Near to *P. t. brevirostris* Rob. & Kloss, from Cochin-China, but has a longer bill, cheeks of a greyer brown, upper parts more olive and sides of the breast of a purer grey, with more distinct white spots.

Iris brown; bill, legs, and feet horny-grey.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 113 to 114 mm.; tail 115 to 117; tarsus 37 to 38; culmen 37 to 43.

♀. Wing 103 to 110 mm.; tail 106 to 116; tarsus 35 to 36; culmen 35 to 37.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 5 & 3. i. 26. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1572 and 1508.

Material examined. 2 ♂ ♂, 4 ♀ ♀. Dec. 22, 1925, to Jan. 11, 1926. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.17 & 18.

Gampsorhynchus rufulus luciæ, subsp. nov.

Differs from other subspecies in having the hind part of the crown and neck reddish-brown instead of white, in the adult stage. Fore part of the crown, face, and throat white, the latter surrounded by a black collar, which reaches the ear-coverts and is followed on the breast by a reddish-yellow band. Rectrices tipped with greyish-buff.

Obs. Specimens from Tonkin belong to the present form.

Iris yellow; bill horny-white with brown culmen; legs and feet pinkish-grey.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 94 to 97 mm.; tail 120 to 125; tarsus 23 to 25; culmen 16.

♀. Wing 98 to 102 mm.; tail 117 to 130; tarsus 25 to 28; culmen 16 to 17.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 28. xii. 25 and 11. i. 26. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1351, 1719.

Material examined. 3 ♂ ♂, 5 ♀ ♀. Dec. 27, 1925, to Jan. 10, 1926.

(Named in honour of Mme A. Varenne.)

Drymocataphus tickelli annamensis, subsp. nov.

Nearer *D. t. olivaceus* Kinnear, from Tonkin and Laos, but is of a less olive-brown above and of a redder-buff below, with no white on the abdomen.

Iris reddish-brown ; bill brown above, horny-flesh below ; legs and feet horny-flesh.

Measurements :—♂. Wing 64 mm. ; tail 55 ; tarsus 27 ; culmen 13.

♀. Wing 58 mm. ; tail 49 ; tarsus 25 ; culmen 13.

Sex ? Wing 62 to 63 mm. ; tail 54 to 56 ; tarsus 25 to 27 ; culmen 11 to 14.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Col des Nuages (Annam), 29 & 30. xi. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 906, 907. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.19 & 20.

Material examined. 1♂, 1♀, 2?. Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, 1925.

Turdinulus epilepidotus laotianus, subsp. nov.

Differs from *T. e. amyæ* Kinnear, from Tonkin, in being darker brown and more tinged with buff. From *T. e. clarus* Rob. & Kloss, from South Annam, it is distinguished by its larger size, less reddish colour, and less distinct streaks on the under surface ; and from *T. e. bakeri* Harington, from Shan States, in being more olive-brown, without any reddish tinge. Throat and supercilium white.

Iris light brown ; bill black above, grey below ; legs and feet horny-brown.

Measurements :—♂. Wing 54 mm. ; tail 29 ; tarsus 20 ; culmen 13.

Sex ? Wing 55 mm. ; tail 30 ; tarsus 23 ; culmen 15.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 8. i. 26. Collected by J. Delacour, No. 1651. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.21.

Material examined. 1 ♂, 1 ?. Jan. 8 to 11, 1926.

Mixornis rubricapilla lutescens, subsp. nov.

Differs from all other races by its more general yellowish colour, olive-yellow back, light rufous wings and tail, and light chestnut crown.

Iris brown ; bill horny-brown ; legs and feet yellowish-brown.

Measurements :—♂. Wing 55 mm. ; tail 52 ; tarsus 15 ; culmen 13.

Sex ? Wing 54 mm ; tail 51 ; tarsus 15 ; culmen 13.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Bao-Ha (Tonkin), 22. viii. 23. Collected by H. Stevens, No. 3.

Material examined. 1 ♂, 1 ?. Bao-Ha and Muong-Xen (Annam), Jan. 17, 1924. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1924.12.21.1.

Alcippe nipalensis major, subsp. nov.

Near to *A. n. peracensis* Sharpe, from Malay, but differs in having a faint whitish-grey ring round the eye, much lighter ochraceous-brown upper parts, and a well-defined black supercilium reaching the shoulder. The chin and throat are white, tinged with grey, and the breast and flanks buff, with the abdomen white.

Iris light brownish-grey ; bill grey ; legs and feet pinkish-horny.

Measurements :—♂. Wing 66 to 67 mm. ; tail 66 ; tarsus 19 ; culmen 10.

♀. Wing 63 to 67 mm. ; tail 61 ; tarsus 18 ; culmen 10.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Col des Nuages (Annam), 2. ii. 26 and 26. xi. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1803 and 906. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.22 & 23.

Material examined. 2 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀. Col des Nuages, Laolao, and Khesanh (Quangtri), Bana, Feb. 21, 1924, to Feb. 2, 1926.

Alcippe nipalensis laotianus, subsp. nov.

Differs from the other forms in having the upper parts more olive, and the grey of the head and neck extending to the upper back. There is a dark grey supercilium ; a white ring round the eye ; and the underparts olive-buff, tinged with grey on the throat and sides of the body.

Iris grey (brown in young specimens) ; bill grey ; culmen darker ; legs and feet grey to yellowish-grey.

Measurements :— ♂. Wing 62 to 64 mm. ; tail 62 to 65 ; tarsus 17 to 19 ; culmen 8 to 10.

♀. Wing 60 to 62 mm. ; tail 62 to 65 ; tarsus 17 to 19 ; culmen 9 to 10.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Xieng-Khouang (Laos), 20. xii. 25, 8. i. 26. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1346, 1642. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.24 & 25.

Material examined. 7 ♂ ♂, 5 ♀ ♀. Dec. 20, 1925, to Jan. 8, 1926.

Cissa hypoleuca chauleti, subsp. nov.

Resembles *C. hypoleuca* Salvadori & Giglioli, from Cochin China, but has the whole plumage tinged with bright yellow. Underparts vivid chrome-yellow ; upper parts yellowish-green, and the tail ochraceous-green, hazel at the tip.

Iris brownish-red ; bill, feet, and legs bright red.

Measurements :— ♀. Wing 147 mm. ; tail 158 ; tarsus 45 ; culmen 37.

Type in the French Museum. ♀. Thua-Lua (Annam), Dec. 10, 1925. Collected by J. Delacour, No. 1777.

(Named in honour of M. Chaulet, who procured us the specimen.)

Psittiparus gularis laotianus, subsp. nov.

Differs from the other races in having the back and mantle of a much lighter and less reddish-brown. Female slightly lighter than male.

Iris brown ; bill orange ; legs and feet greenish-horny.

Measurements :— ♂. Wing 89 to 96 mm. ; tail 86 to 90 ; tarsus 21 to 24 ; culmen 12 to 14.

♀. Wing 85 to 90 mm.; tail 83 to 86; tarsus 20 to 23; culmen 11 to 12.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Xiang-Khouang (Laos), 10. i. 26. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1685 and 1693.

Material examined. 8 ♂ ♂, 4 ♀ ♀. Dec. 25, 1925, to Jan. 10, 1926.

Carpodacus erythrinus murati, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *C. e. roseatus* (Hodgs.), but the male of a much paler and more carmine-pink. The crown, throat, and breast hardly any lighter than the remainder of the plumage. The female is of a lighter and more fulvous-brown.

Iris brown; bill horny-grey, culmen darker; feet and legs horny-brown.

Measurements:— ♂. Wing 82 to 85 mm.; tail 64 to 66; tarsus 18 to 19; culmen 18 to 19.

♀. Wing 83 mm.; tail 63; tarsus 19; culmen 11.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Noug-Het (Laos), 14 & 15. xii. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 1030, 1052.

Material examined. 2 ♂ ♂, 1 ♀. Noug-Het and Xieng-Khouang, Dec. 14, 1925, to Jan. 11, 1926.

(Named in honour of H.H. Prince Paul Murat.)

Hypacanthis monguilloti, sp. nov.

Resembles *H. ambiguus* Oust., from Yunnan, Szechuan, and the Shan States, but differs widely in having the upper parts black instead of olive-green. The male has the crown and sides of the head, cheeks, nape, hind-neck, back, and scapulars black; the chin, throat, and upper breast golden-yellow, with a faint black border on some feathers; rump yellow, slightly streaked with black; lesser wing-coverts black, spotted with yellow; greater wing-coverts black. The primaries black with yellow bases, The under wing-coverts yellow, streaked with grey; upper tail-coverts black, and under tail-coverts yellow. The two middle pairs of

tail-feathers entirely black; remainder of tail black, with the base and margin of the outer feathers yellow.

The female has the back streaked with greenish-yellow, the throat and breast squamated with black, the rump mixed with green and grey, and the underparts tinged with grey and greenish-yellow.

Iris greyish-brown; bill horny-flesh, pinkish at the tip (with a dark culmen in females); legs and feet horny-flesh.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 78 mm.; tail 54; tarsus 13; culmen 10·5.

♀. Wing 72 to 76 mm.; tail 50 to 51; tarsus 12 to 13; culmen 10 to 10·5.

Types in the French Museum. ♂ ♀. Dalat (Annam), 11. x. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 575, 573.

Material examined. 1 ♂, 2 ♀ ♀. Oct. 11 to 13, 1925.

(Named in honour of M. M. Monguillot, General Secretary of Indo-China.)

Æthopyga ezrai, sp. nov.

This species differs strikingly from all other members of the genus in having no yellow on the lower back, otherwise near *A. nipalensis nipalensis* (Hodgs.), but differs, however, in the size of the red marks on the sides of the neck and other peculiarities.

The male has the crown, throat, nape, hind- and fore-neck and upper back metallic green, glossed with purple, with a large patch of brick-red slightly tinged with yellow on the sides of the neck. The cheeks and lores are sooty-black; middle of the back and wings olive-green; breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts uniform golden-yellow; rump, upper tail-coverts, and middle rectrices metallic green, glossed with purple; other rectrices black, and the under wing-coverts yellowish-white.

Iris brown; bill, legs, and feet black.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 52 mm.; tail 71; tarsus 14; culmen 17.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Dakto (Annam),

Mar. 17, 1926. Collected by J. Delacour, No. 2390. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.26.

(Named in honour of Mr. A. Ezra, President of the Avicultural Society, Vice-President of the Zool. Soc. and the B. O. U.)

Anthreptes hypogrammica lisettæ, subsp. nov.

Differs from *A. hypogrammica hypogrammica* S. Muller in having the under tail-coverts of a brighter yellow, the ground-colour of the breast and abdomen of a paler yellow, and no white showing through the metallic-blue feathers of the rump.

Iris brown ; bill black, gape yellow ; legs horny-yellow.

Measurements:—♂. Wing 63 to 67 mm. ; tail 50 to 53 ; tarsus 14 to 15 ; culmen 21 to 22.

♀. Wing 61 mm. ; tail 47 ; tarsus 13 ; culmen 21.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Col des Nuages (Annam), 4. xii. 25 and 29. xi. 25. Collected by J. Delacour, Nos. 964, 921. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.9.8.27 & 28.

Material examined. 4 ♂ ♂, 1 ♀. Col des Nuages and Muong-Xen, Nov. 29, 1925, to Feb. 23, 1926.

(Named in honour of Mme P. Pasquier.)

M. J. Delacour also sent the following communication on

Dryonastes maesi Oustalet.

During my visit to Washington in May 1926, Mr. J. H. Riley showed me at the U.S. National Museum many interesting birds from Eastern Asia, and, among them, specimens of a *Dryonastes* from Mount Omei, Central Szechuan (China), which he had described as a new species, *Dryonastes grahami*, in the 'Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington,' vol. xxxv. p. 59 (March 1922). We both had a suspicion that the bird might be identical with *Dryonastes maesi* described by Oustalet in the 'Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France,' 1890, vol. xv. p. 155.

I brought back one specimen with me, and have recently compared it with the type-specimen of *D. maesi*, as well as

with many other specimens in the Paris Museum. There is no doubt whatsoever that they all are the same and that *Dryonastes maesi* Oustalet must stand as their name. What misled Mr. Riley is that Oustalet gives "Tonkin" as the locality of the type, which was presented to the Paris Museum by my late relative, M. A. Maës, who owned a private collection of bird-skins from all parts of the world.

The species was described from a single specimen included in a small collection that M. Maës had recently purchased as coming from Tonkin, but, of course, as was sometimes the case at that time, there was no certainty about the locality. The five other species included in the collection were all common species, but not typically Tonkinese.

Later on, in 1896, 1898, and 1911, other specimens of *D. maesi* were sent to the Paris Museum by different missionaries from the neighbourhood of Ta-tien-Lu (Szetchuan) *.

As no *D. maesi* has since been found in Tonkin, it is safe to assume that Oustalet's locality is a mistake, and that this bird inhabits Szechuan (China), Ta-tien-Lu being the first certain locality where it has been collected.

The Hon. Masauji Hachisuka sent the following description of a new race of the Sky-Lark, *Alauda arvensis*, from Saghalien :—

Alauda arvensis lönnbergi, subsp. nov.

This race is nearest in size to *A. a. pekinensis*, and is intermediate between that form and *A. a. japonica*.

The general colour of the upper surface is darker and more strongly marked than in *A. a. pekinensis*, while the underparts are also more deeply coloured, especially on breast and throat.

Average length of the wing 112 mm., and tail 70·7 mm., in nine specimens examined.

* Oustalet, Bulletin du Muséum d'Hist. Nat. 1898, p. 255; Nouv. Arch. du Muséum d'Hist. Nat. 4e Série, vol. iii. 1901, p. 280, vol. v. 1903, p. 87.

Type in the Royal Natural History Museum of Stockholm, Chepisani Saghalien, 1. x. 1906. Wing 112 mm., tail 71 mm.

Note.—The measurements of the type of *A. a. pekinensis* in the British Museum are wing 117 mm., tail 78 mm., and in colour it is paler than in breeding birds.

This new race is named after Prof. Einar Lönnberg, of Sweden.

Mr. David Bannerman exhibited and described a new Redbreast from the highlands of N. Tunisia and named it

Erithacus rubecula lavaudeni, subsp. nov.

Adult male and female. Differs from *E. r. witherbyi* in having the breast generally deeper red, the upper parts browner and more reddish, particularly on the head, and the upper tail-coverts more rusty ; *witherbyi* is greyish on upper parts. The wings are shorter—males 65–68 mm. (the wings of *witherbyi* range from 68–72 in the specimens I have seen). The bill of the new race is rather stumpy and stronger than in *witherbyi*, measuring in the exposed culmen barely 10 mm.

Type in the British Museum (♂ ad.), No. 424. Les Sources, 2200 ft., near Ain Draham, 10. iii. 25. W. P. Lowe and D. A. Bannerman collectors. Six specimens were obtained.

Range. The Highlands of the Kroumerie, Northern Tunisia.

This race is named in honour of Monsieur Louis Lavauden, inspector of woods and forests in Tunisia, who gave us so much assistance in the planning of our Expedition.

Note.—Mr. Harry Witherby was the first to note the distinctness of the Tunisian Robin from the Algerian race named after himself. Subsequent comparison with the type in Tring confirms Mr. Witherby's opinion, but, owing to abrasion and fading, it is important to compare birds shot at the same season. Faded July birds of *lavaudeni* resemble March specimens of *witherbyi* in colour.

Mr. Bannerman also described a new Tree-Creeper from the Little Atlas in Morocco which he proposed to name

Certhia brachydactyla raisulii, subsp. nov.

Adult male and female. Differs from *C. b. mauritanica* in being much greyer and less rufous on the upper side, with the white streaks larger and much more pronounced.

In size it is larger—wings of males 65–68, females 62–63 mm. The bills vary from 15–17 mm. and the tails (some of which are very worn) measure as much as 60 mm. in length, but considerable variation is shown.

Type in the British Museum (♂ ad.), Azrou, Little Atlas, 8 July, 1919. Admiral Lynes Coll. Reg. No. 1919.12.11.124.

Seven specimens obtained in the Little Atlas were identified by Admiral Lynes ('Ibis,' 1920, p. 292) as *C. b. mauritanica*, as typical examples of that race were not at the time available for comparison. Mr. Willoughby Lowe and myself have since secured eight specimens of *C. b. mauritanica* from the Ain Draham district of Tunisia (the type-locality), when it was at once apparent that the Atlas Mountain Creepers belonged to a different subspecies. I have named this race after the famous Moorish Chieftain Raisuli at the special request of Admiral Lynes.

It may be remarked that Moroccan specimens are not nearly so rufous in colouring as typical *brachydactyla brachydactyla* from Europe, or from Spanish examples, which appear again to be separable from the typical form. Admiral Lynes's birds are approached in the colour of the upper parts by *ultramontana*, the Italian subspecies which ranges westwards to the Pyrenees, but can be distinguished from that form at a glance by the heavier longer bill and considerably larger size.

Anthus rufulus lynesi.

Mr. Bannerman next drew attention to the fact that together with Mr. Bates he had, in the current 'Ibis,' 1926, pp. 801–802, described a new race of Rufous Pipit from the highest elevations of the Cameroon Montane District, wintering in the western Basin of Darfur under the above name.

The sheet containing the description of this bird had inadvertently been published in 'The Ibis' (*l. c.*) in their paper "On some Birds of Adamawa and New Cameroon," where it was feared the description of this interesting Pipit would easily be lost sight of amongst extraneous matter. The page was intended for the 'Bulletin.'

Col. Meinertzhagen had made the *rufulus* group of Pipits subspecies of *richardi* characterized by its enormous hind-claw, but Mr. Bannerman said he was averse to uniting these two groups and preferred the arrangement used by Admiral Lynes in his paper.

Lord Rothschild exhibited a life-sized drawing of a *Casuarius unappendiculatus rufotinctus* Rothsch., now living in the Zoological Gardens, and made the following remarks on the group of "One-wattled Cassowaries":—

Recently Dr. Stresemann, in his account of the birds collected on the Sepik River in N.E. New Guinea, has stated that at present only two subspecies (local races) of *Casuarius unappendiculatus* could be confirmed, viz. *C. unappendiculatus unappendiculatus* from Salwatty Island and *C. unappendiculatus occipitalis* from the mainland of New Guinea and Jobi Island. This view of the case, to my mind, is too extreme, and, moreover, the nomenclature is untenable, for *C. u. occipitalis* and its aberration *laglaizei* are only known from Jobi Island in the two skins collected by Laglaize in the Paris Museum; and, until we get living Jobi Island examples, cannot be identified with mainland examples, especially as Laglaize's specimens both show strong differentiation in the casque. Then of the birds *presumed* to have come from the mainland, *rothschildi* has the casque shaped as in *unappendiculatus unappendiculatus*, while *rufotinctus* has the casque laterally compressed as in the group of "Two-wattled Cassowaries." In my monograph of the Cassowaries and subsequent papers I have acknowledged three species of "One-wattled Cassowaries," viz. *C. philipi*, *C. mitratus*, and *C. unappendiculatus*, the

last-named with six subspecies, and, in spite of Dr. Stresemann's views, I still hold to this opinion as there is no definite new proof to the contrary. Before the true status of this group of Cassowaries can be finally settled, we must have series with accurate data and localities, for at present most of the material in museums consists of birds brought over alive and with no data at all. The following nine forms have been named: viz. *mitratus*, *philipi*, *suffusus*, *rufotinctus*, *aurantiacus*, *occipitalis*, *laglaizei*, *rothschildi*, and *unappendiculatus*, the first five by myself. The two forms *mitratus and philipi* I consider for the present as quite distinct species. Of the remaining seven, which I treat as forms of *unappendiculatus*, I am convinced that *laglaizei* is only a melanic aberration of *occipitalis*, the only difference being that, according to Laglaize, the whole head and neck were blue except a small orange patch on the lower hind-neck, whereas in *occipitalis* the fore- and hind-neck and sides of the neck are yellow or orange tinged with red. We only know for certain the locality of *occipitalis* (Jobi Island), *aurantiacus* (some part of N.E. New Guinea), and *unappendiculatus* (Salwatty Island). Of the others, all were described from living birds with no exact locality.

Of the six "One-wattled Cassowaries" which I consider forms of *unappendiculatus*, with the exception of the latter all five have orange occipital patches; but whereas *occipitalis* and *rothschildi* have the casque flat on the top and declivous posteriorly, and *aurantiacus* has it low but compressed laterally, *rufotinctus* and *suffusus* have a high casque strongly compressed laterally. In addition, *suffusus* has no wattle at all, it being only indicated by a round flattened wart.

When once we obtain good series with accurate data, it will probably be proved that no two forms occur together in any part of the Papuan region, and that, as they exclude one another geographically, all the eight forms will have to be considered subspecies of the one species *unappendiculatus*; but for the present I feel sure it is right to uphold the three species.

In confirmation of my opinion that *laglaizei* is a melanic aberration of *occipitalis*, I may say I have seen three examples of *rufotinctus* in which the yellow has been more or less replaced by blue.

Mr. W. L. Sclater sent the following :—

Notes on African Birds (Larks, Flycatchers, and Waxbills).

Some years ago the late Captain Shelley described (Bull. B. O. C. xiv. 1904, p. 82) a very remarkable Lark from Kordofan which he placed with some hesitation in the genus *Calendula* under the name *C. dunni*, after the original collector. Since that date it has been obtained by Captain Angus Buchanan in the Damergu country to the north of Nigeria and by Admiral Lynes in Darfur.

Both Hartert (Nov. Zool. 1921, p. 130, and 1924, p. 42) and Lynes ('Ibis,' 1924, p. 701) hesitated as to its generic relation, and both seem agreed that it was certainly not rightly placed in *Calendula*, a monotypic genus with one species confined to South Africa.

Under these circumstances, and after a careful comparison of the material, it seems not unreasonable to propose a new generic name for this remarkable little Lark, and I would call it

Eremalauda, gen. nov.,

with type *Calendula dunni* Shelley.

The distinguishing characters are as follows :—Bill short, stout, and Finch-like, resembling that of *Pyrrhulauda*, the culmen strongly curved downwards ; nostrils concealed by forwardly-growing plumelets ; wing with the outer primary narrow and attenuated, about one-third the length of the second, which again is approximately equal to the 3rd and 4th ; longest secondaries almost reaching the tips of the primaries ; tarsus rather slender and far exceeding the length of the culmen ; tail-feathers except the two centre ones blackish, the outer pair with a white external web

only ; general colour rufous, with darker rufous centres to the feathers not well marked ; no dark lining to the wing ; sexes alike.

This little Lark appears to be nearest to *Pyrrhulauda*, from which it differs chiefly in the absence of sexual differentiation and in the lining-colour of the wings.

The Sabota Larks.

When looking over the Sabota Larks in the Natural History Museum, I found a long series collected by Dr. Ansorge at Catumbella in Benguella which I could not identify satisfactorily. These birds were much paler than the typical race and have a comparatively short bill. I sent an example to Dr. Stresemann for comparison with *Mirafra sabota plebeja* Cab. and *M. s. waibeli* Grote, and he kindly informs me that it is quite distinct from either and is undoubtedly a new racial form, and I propose to name it after the collector :

Mirafra sabota ansorgei, subsp. nov.

The characters are briefly as follows :—Resembling *M. s. sabota*, but much paler, and with pale sandy, not rich rufous, edgings to the feathers of the back and wings ; below almost white, with no tawny wash and a few brown narrow streaks on the chest ; bill about the same size as that of *M. s. sabota*. From *M. s. nævia* it differs in its small bill.

Type a female, collected by Dr. W. J. Ansorge at Catumbella in Benguella, 6. viii. 05. B.M. Reg. No. 1905.11.22.173.

Measurements. Length in skin about 135 mm. ; wing 82 ; tail 52 ; tarsus 23 ; culmen 13.

In addition to the good series of thirteen examples collected by Dr. Ansorge, there are two males obtained by Messrs. Woosnam and Legge at Lehutitu (see Ogilvie-Grant, Ibis, 1912, p. 375) in the Kalahari. These are intermediate between the typical and the Benguella races, but perhaps rather nearer *M. s. ansorgei*.

In returning the Benguella Lark, Dr. Stresemann kindly

sent me for examination several types of species of *Mirafra* apparently not represented in the British Museum, including that of *M. sabota waibeli* Grote (Journ. Orn. 1922, p. 46 : Okaukwejo, Ovampoland). This last has the large bill of *M. s. nævia*, but is distinctly less rufous, as is pointed out in the original description, and appears to represent *M. s. nævia* in Ovampoland. It has nothing to do with the Benguella bird.

We have, therefore, the following races of Sabota Larks :—

Mirafra sabota sabota (Smith).
Griqualand West and northern Cape Province (Deelfontein) north to Matabeleland east through the Transvaal to Zululand.

Mirafra s. ansorgei W. Scl.
Benguella, south-east to the Kalahari.

Mirafra s. plebeja Cab.
Portuguese Congo (and perhaps northern Angola).

Mirafra s. nævia Strickl.
Damaraland and Great Namaqualand south to the Orange River at Upington.

Mirafra s. waibeli Grote.
Ovampoland.

Mirafra strümpelli.

Dr. Stresemann has kindly sent me the type of this species described by Reichenow (Orn. Monatsb. 1910, p. 191 : Ngaundere, N. Cameroon). As was suspected by Mr. Bates, who has explored the highlands of Cameroon with such success, Reichenow's type is undoubtedly identical with *Heliocorys modesta saturatior* Bannerman (Bull. B. O. C. xlii. 1922, p. 141 : Tibati), and the race must be known in future as *Helicorys modesta strümpelli*.

Mirafra nigrescens.

An examination of the type of this species, also described by Reichenow (Orn. Monatsb. 1900, p. 39), proves that it belongs to the *M. africana* group, of which many races have been described and which ranges from Nigeria to Natal. The type, and only example, was obtained at the Elton Pass in the Ukinga district to the north of Lake Nyasa by Dr. Fülleborn. It is quite a distinct race and the darkest and blackest of all I have examined.

Chloropetella suahelica Roberts.

Through the kindness of Mr. Austin Roberts, I have been privileged to examine the type of *Chloropetella suahelica* obtained by him at Myiai on 27 January, 1917 ; this place was an outpost during the war, and is about 40 miles south-west of Dar es Salaam in what is now Tanganyika Territory. The bird was subsequently described in the 'Annals of the Transvaal Museum' (vol. vi. 1917, p. 1).

On comparing the bird with our series of African Fly-catchers, Mr. Wells and I were at once struck with its resemblance to *Erythrocercus holochlorus* Erlanger (Orn. Monatsb. 1901, p. 181), obtained by him on the Lower Juba River at Solole.

There is only one example of Erlanger's species in the British Museum—a female obtained by Colonel Stephenson Clarke's collector at Gobwen on the Lower Juba with a wing of 44 mm. Mr. Roberts's bird resembles it in every respect except that the wing is larger, about 48 mm.

Both these birds have the tail about the same length as the wing, while in *Erythrocercus* it is distinctly longer ; the bill, too, is broader and blacker than in *Erythrocercus*. The distinctions from *Chloropeta* are also quite well marked, as was pointed out by Mr. Roberts in his excellent diagnosis of *Chloropetella*.

I am therefore of opinion that this genus should be

maintained, and that two races differing only in size should be recognized, viz.:—

Chloropetella holochrous holochrous (Erlanger).
Distr. The Juba River swamps.

Chloropetella holochrous suahelica Roberts.
Distr. Coastal districts of Tanganyika Territory.

Estrilda xanthophrys, sp. nov.

Mr. J. Delacour recently brought alive and presented to the British Museum two little Waxbills of the genus *Estrilda* which do not appear to be identical with any described race. They were obtained from a dealer in Marseilles and are said to have been imported from Senegal.

They were both found to be females with fair-sized ovaries, and we may presume were adult. They resemble *Estrilda troglodytes* (formerly known as *E. cinerea*), a species widely spread in Africa from Senegal to the Nile Valley, but have the characteristic bright red eye-stripe replaced by a rich yellow one, and are characterized by the absence of any trace of the pinkish wash on the underparts, which are ashy-grey very finely banded with pale brown. About the vent there are slight traces of a yellowish streak where in *E. troglodytes* is a conspicuous splash of pink. The back, too, is distinctly of a darker shade of brown. Iris reddish-brown, bill orange, feet purple-brown.

Dimensions. Wing 44 mm., tail 40, ulna 4, tarsus 15—in this respect not differing essentially from *E. troglodytes*.

Type (a female said to come from Senegal), B.M. Reg. No. 1926.9.26.1.

I am, of course, well aware of the danger of describing as new a form of doubtful origin and chiefly differing in the substitution of orange-yellow for red, but the little birds were so very distinct-looking in life that it seems advisable to draw attention to them by naming them, and it is to be hoped that collectors and observers in Senegal may look out for them and perhaps procure additional examples

with more exact particulars which will throw light on their true status. In the meantime, I think it preferable to consider it as a species rather than a subspecies.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst showed some Short-toed Larks (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) and made the following remarks :—

"In this small series I have two birds of the typical race from within a short distance of the type-locality (Montpellier, S. France). You will notice that one of them matches pretty well these others from the Spanish side of the Pyrenees (Pamplona), and are typical specimens of the race ; the other, however, is much more reddish-yellow, and I should be sorry, allowing for a little wear, to pick it out from *hermoniensis* from Palestine, an example of which I also show. Now this second bird, although obtained from within a few miles of the typical greyer bird, was obtained on a very different terrain, namely on yellowish, rocky, arid, low hills which abut on to the Mediterranean, north of Perpignan, and its colour matches well its terrain. The greyer bird was obtained on a gravelly sandy plain of a much greyer tint, also close to the sea in the same area, and on about the same tint of soil as these other Pamplona birds.

"Now these simple facts open up a wide field of speculation. Firstly, how are we to regard *hermoniensis*? It certainly is not a casual variety. Dr. Hartert gives the distribution as middle Marocco, highland of Algeria, Algerian Sahara, S. Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, and Syria; but Meinertzhagen also records *longipennis* as the breeding form in South Palestine. This gives a fair geographical range ; but one would like to know whether the grey type occurs anywhere in the range of *hermoniensis* in Africa Minor or in Palestine. I think it is very suggestive, though further investigation for proving or disproving is required, that we have here a plastic species which varies in colour according to the ground it inhabits (and I see Dr. Hartert expressed this view many years ago) ; and it will do this whether in the

east, as in Palestine, or in the west, as in the south of France. Where one type of terrain alone occurs one will expect only the one type of bird to occur, and where there is diversity of terrain the two (or even more) forms, regardless of geographical limits in a wider sense.

"The question then arises, if my suggestion is proved, does not the same thing occur with other ground-birds such as *Galerida Ammomanes*, etc., where there is a diversity of terrain? Some of the races of these species are very local, and, of course, it is well known that they match the different soils pretty well. I can think of two almost parallel cases:—*Galerida nigricans* is confined to the core of the Nile delta on the black alluvial soil, while *G. maculata* inhabits the desert edges (I have shot typical birds of both races within sight of each other!); but in this case I know of no repetition in another area, *i.e.* a bird indistinguishable from *nigricans* inhabiting a black soil in another area. The other case perhaps is more parallel, *Ammomanes deserti algiriensis* occurring, according to Meinertzhagen (Ibis, 1921), in Egypt in the range of *A. deserti deserti* as a repetition form; and it looks very much as if *deserti* occurs, too, as a repetition form in the area of *isabellina*; but all these want a lot of further and closer study together with their terrains.

The same sort of question arises where one gets repetition forms due to factors other than ground-colour, such as the Scandinavian Dipper reappearing in the Cantabrian Mountains with other forms sandwiched in between. These problems are very interesting, and we have yet only scratched the surface of them; a lot of very careful collecting needs yet to be done, with notes on and samples of the ground these birds inhabit. Some day we may have sufficient data to throw light on the question, and we shall have to revise our appellations; these repetition forms do not seem to me to be quite on a par with many racial forms which have a definite but wide geographical area outside of which they do not occur, nor are they quite local races like those confined to an island or a particular mountain mass.

On behalf of Dr. P. P. Sushkin (Hon. Memb. B. O. U.), Mr. N. B. Kinnear submitted the following note :—

"In August of 1925 I published in the 'Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History,' a description of a new form of *Emberiza elegans*, inhabiting Amurland and Korea, under the name *E. elegans sibirica*. Dr. Claude B. Ticehurst has called my attention to the fact that this name is preoccupied by *Emberiza sibirica* Gmelin (= *Emberiza aureola* Pallas, 1773), and I therefore wish to substitute the following name :

Emberiza elegans ticehursti, nom. nov.
(=*Emberiza elegans sibirica* Sushkin, Proc. Bost. Nat. Hist. 1925, nec *Emberiza sibirica* Gmelin)."

Dr. Sushkin further described the following six new subspecies of Palæarctic Game-birds :—

Phasianus colchicus edzinensis, subsp. nov.

Similar to *satscheuensis* Pleske, but differs as follows :— Borders of the scapulars and interscapulars darker, mikado brown to fawn instead of cinnamon or cinnamon-buff, with a stronger fiery gloss and the centres of these feathers purer white, not creamy. Underside somewhat lighter ; the black-green metallic border of the chest-feathers narrow and interrupted at the tip (in *satscheuensis* broader and complete), and green gloss of the chest nearly absent. The crown greenish-grey as in *satscheuensis* ; a vestigial white eyebrow-stripe ; white collar narrow, interrupted on the fore-neck.

Measurements. Wing : ♂ 240–250 mm. (*satscheuensis*, 248–255).

Type in Zool. Mus. Russ. Acad. Sci. No. 13.263, ♂. Lower course of Edzin-gol (or Hei-ho), Central Gobi, 23 March, 1908 ; collected by Koslov.

Material examined. Two specimens, and thirty-eight examples of *P. c. satscheuensis*.

Distribution. Bassin of Edzin-gol and Lake Kokho-nor, Central Gobi.

Tetraogallus altaicus orientalis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *T. altaicus altaicus* (Gebler) in the paler and more yellowish colour above, with less dense dark freckling; ground-colour of feathers of the upperside cinnamon to connamon-buff instead of nearly buffy-brown. The thighs are paler, hair-brown instead of deep mouse-grey, and the pale tips of the tail-feathers more pronounced.

Measurements. Size same. Wing: ♂ 305 mm., ♀ 282–285.

Type in Zool. Mus. Russ. Acad. Sci. No. 14.612, ♀. Near Uliassutai, North-western Mongolia, November 1907; collected by Kozlov.

Material examined. Three specimens compared with twenty *T. altaicus altaicus.*

Distribution. South-eastern part of the range of the species. Found in Dundu-saikhan, the easternmost part of the Gobian Altai (near 104° E. long.) and near Uliassutai. A bird from Bain-Tzagan-ula, southern slope of the Gobian Altai (99° E. long.), is intermediate. Birds from near Kobdo and from the western shore of Lake Kossogol are typical.

Tetraogallus tibetanus tschimenensis, subsp. nov.

Compared with *T. t. tibetanus* (specimens from Pamir), paler and more sandy-buff above, more coarsely freckled with dark grey, especially on the wing-coverts; light band across the upper back paler, of a vinaceous-buff, and scarcely at all powdered with grey. In the male the chest is crossed by a double grey band, each about 2 cm. broad, one dividing the white area of the chest from the throat and another bordering it behind. In the female both bands nearly unite at the middle. White area of the throat as in *T. t. tibetanus.* Thighs more reddish, near avellaneous (instead of light mouse-grey). Breast and belly as in *tibetanus*, without black margins of feathers in the middle.

Measurements. Size the same as in the typical form. Wing: ♂ 280 mm., ♀ 220 (tape).

Type in Zool. Mus. Russ. Acad. Sci. No. 14.568, ♂.

Moskovskii Range (western part of Columbus Range), Kwen-lun Syst. (86–88° E. long., 37½° N. lat.), N.W. Tibet, Dec. 1884; collected by Przewalski.

Material examined. Two specimens and notes of Przewalski.

Distribution. Tchimen-tag and Moskovskii Range, Kwen-lun Syst. (86–92° E. long.).

Tetraogallus tibetanus centralis, subsp. nov.

Darker all over than the foregoing and more fulvous. Darker and much more fulvous than *T. t. tibetanus*, with the white of the throat and chest more restricted. Top of the head and occiput dark neutral grey, and the light band across the upper back well pronounced, but ground-colour near avellaneous and densely powdered with dark grey. Upper side strongly fulvescent, darker and more cinnamon than in *T. t. tibetanus*; rump strongly coloured with bright fawn. White patch on the throat narrower than in *T. t. tibetanus* and *T. t. tschimenensis*. Patterns of the chest variable, but generally with two dark grey cross-bands, which are in the female more or less confluent at the middle line. Feathers of the centre of breast and belly mostly bordered with black. Thighs dark "avellaneous."

Measurements. Size not different. Wing: ♂ 270–280 mm., ♀ 262–270 (tape).

Type in Zool. Mus. Russ. Acad. Sci. No. 14.577. Tang-(Dang-)la Range, Central Tibet, Tang-la Pass (99½° E. long.).

Material examined. Twenty-three specimens.

Distribution. Humboldt Range; Tang-la; northern slope of Burkhan-budda; Southern Kuku-nor Range nearly as far east as Dang-er-ling or Jenkar (from the Southern Tetung Range begins the area of *przewalskii*).

Note.—*T. tibetanus przewalskii* differs from all the foregoing by its much darker and greyer upperside; light band on the upper back little pronounced and strongly powdered with dark grey; white throat-patch narrow; chest in the male with broad dark grey double cross-band and small

white area (in one specimen white area absent); the female with grey chest, white patch totally absent or represented by few scattered white feathers.

Measurements. Perhaps a trifle larger. Wing: ♂ 275–287 mm., ♀ 258–273.

Material examined. Nine specimens.

Distribution. Eastern Tibet, from the Oring-noz Lake, sources of Hwang-ho, and Tetung (or Tatung) Range.

It is to be noted that Przewalski, in his MSS. diaries, which have never been published or used clearly, distinguishes these traces of *T. tibetanus* without naming them, and partly traces their distribution.

Perdix hodgsoniæ occidentalis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *P. hodgsoniæ sifanica* Przew. as follows:— Paler above and less heavily marked below. Chestnut coloration along the fore margin of the wing feebly developed, in the female nearly absent. Dark bars on the underside (birds of same sex compared) narrower, in the female sometimes interrupted; black malar strip in the male narrower by one-half (5–6 mm. broad instead of 10–12), in the female narrower and divided from the orbit by whitish interspace.

Measurements. Size as in *sifanica*.

Material examined. Nineteen specimens compared with thirty-nine specimens of *sifanica*.

Type in Zool. Mus. Russ. Acad. No. 13.760, ♂. Gurban-angyz-gol, Nan-shan, September 1894; collected by Roborovski and Koslov.

Distribution. From Western Nan-shan to the Southern Kuku-nor Range and even a little east of Kuku-nor. The area of *P. h. sifanica* begins from southern slope of Amnemachin Range, Upper Hwang-ho, and from Chortentan Monastery (Jetung River, near 72½° E. long. and 37 N. lat.).

Perdix barbata przewalskii, subsp. nov.

Differs from *P. barbata barbata* in the ochreous area of the breast and belly united by a broad band with the same

coloured area of the throat; the dark patch on the belly as large as in *P. b. barbata*, but paler brownish-black. Upper side slightly paler and more yellowish. From *P. b. turcomana* it differs in the same way as from the typical race.

Type in Zool. Mus. Russ. Acad. No. 13.872, ♂. Southern Kuku-nor Range, February 1880; collected by Przewalski.

Material examined. Eighteen specimens compared with forty-seven of *P. b. barbata* and sixty-seven of *P. b. turcomana*.

Distribution. Tzaidam; around Kuku-nor; eastern Nan-shan.

On behalf of Mr. B. Stegmann, Assist. Zool. Mus. Russ. Acad., Mr. Kinnear submitted the following description of a new Tawny Owl:—

Strix aluco obscurata, subsp. nov.

The grey phase differs from that of *Strix aluco aluco* by its darker general colour, more developed dark markings, and less developed white spots on the scapulars and wing-coverts. Upper side is darker, wing-coverts near natal brown (Ridgway, 2nd ed.), and the dark markings of the upper side and tail are more developed; white spots of the scapulars smaller and suffused with brown, those of the wing-coverts smaller and less numerous than in *aluco aluco*. Underside and legs darker, with more pronounced transverse markings. Facial disc darker and more distinctly barred. The rufous phase is darker and brighter than in *aluco aluco*.

Type in Zool. Mus. Russ. Acad. Sci., ♀ ad. Lenkoran, S.W. shore of the Caspian Sea, 24 December, 1889; collected by T. Nazarov.

Measurements. Wing 303–305 mm. (tape).

Distribution. Talysh and forest region south of the Caspian Sea, probably as far east as Teheren (specimen labelled "Persien, Nicolin," Stockholm Mus., probably from this last locality; Sushkin *in litt.*).

Material examined. Four specimens.

Note.—This form is another instance which shows the local races of Talysh forest-birds are characterized principally by their dark coloration. From the small and extremely pale *S. a. sancti-nicolai* Zarudn. (hill-ranges of western Persia and near Mossul), and the large and comparatively light *S. a. härmsi* Zarudn. (W. Turkestan), the present subspecies differs conspicuously.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following new names :—

Melanopitta bonapartena, new name for *Brachyurus forsteni* Bonaparte, Consp. Gen. Av. vol. i. p. 256, 1850 (not *id.*, *ib.* p. 255).

Ethelornis magnirostris cobana, new name for *Zosterops fusca* Bernstein, Journ. f. Orn. 1864, p. 406 (not *Gerygone fusca* Gould, 1846).

Rhipidura flabellifera melandæ, new name for *R. f. kempi* Mathews & Iredale, 1913 (not of Mathews, 1912).

Pterodroma siliga, new name for *Procellaria agilis*, 1912 (not Gray, 1871).

Mr. H. Guthrie Smith, introduced by Mr. Sladen Wing, gave a short account of some field-observations on certain New Zealand birds :—

The Auckland Island Snipe (*Cœnocorypha aucklandica*, subsp.), he stated, lays two eggs in a nest of moss and lichen on a cushion of gale-flattened scrub. He had never seen more than a single nestling following its parents, and had reason to believe that instantly after the chipping of the egg the weaker chick succumbs. These Snipe feed on small red worms found plentifully in the peat, and still survive because they nest on wind-swept barren grounds, where there is nothing to tempt the prowling Wood-Hens (*Gallirallus*). They are extremely tame, can be stroked on the nest, and are practically flightless, running for the nearest cover when disturbed.

The Stewart Island Apteryx (*Apteryx australis lawryi*)

Mr. Guthrie Smith had only met with on the island of that name, where it is still fairly plentiful. It nests in shallow burrows, four or six feet long, excavated in a bank in the forest and always facing the north. The male when incubating sits blocking up the hole with its back to the light. The enormous egg of this species is greenish-white in colour, like a Domestic Duck's, and is laid on quite a respectable nest of leaves and forest-débris. The young bird remains in the burrow for some time, and on vacating it the whole family take up their quarters in some dry crevice beneath rocks or fallen trees. In North Island, he said, the North Island Kiwi (*Apteryx australis mantelli*) was still to the fore, and pretty safe in the narrow depths of gorges, into which the very weasels would hesitate to go.

The Wry-billed Plover (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) had already been photographed and its habits described by another New Zealand naturalist. He personally had watched the bird in vain at its breeding-quarters in South Island for any clue as to the use of the curious-shaped bill; but in North Island, where the bird migrates in winter, he had observed it sweeping the wets and with a remarkable scythe-like action of its bill, for some minute food-supply.

Mr. Guthrie Smith then went on to make some interesting remarks on the breeding-habits of the Whitehead, *Certhiparus albicillus*, and the Stitch Bird, *Notiomystis cincta* *.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker sent the following remarks on Oriental birds and described five new subspecies :—

Picus canus sanguiniceps.

Stuart Baker, Bull. B. O. C. xlvi. p. 70, 1926.

This bird is the same as *Picus barbatus* Gray & Hardw. Ill. Orn., and my name becomes a synonym.

* [As the habits of these birds are very fully described in Mr. Guthrie Smith's recent book, 'Bird-life on Island and Shore' (Blackwood & Sons), we would refer members to that interesting work.]

Picus chlorophus chlorolophoides.

Brachylophus chlorolophoides Gyldenstolpe, Orn. Monatsb. 1916, p. 29.

This Woodpecker had already been distinguished by Gyldenstolpe from Koon Tan, N. Siam, and as the Burmese birds are the same, Meinertzhagen's name, *Picus chlorolophus burmæ*, becomes a synonym.

Dryobates pectoralis.

Picus pectoralis Blyth, J. A. S. B. xv. p. 15, 1846, is preoccupied by *Picus pectoralis* Wagler, Syst. Av., *Picus*, p. 74, 1827. The next name available is *Picus analis* Bonaparte, Consp. Av. p. 137, 1850 : Java.

Dryobates cabanisi stresemanni.

My *Dryobates cabanisi stephensoni* (Bull. B. O. C. xlvi. p. 70, 1926), from Lechiang, Yunnan, seems to be the same as *Dryobates major stresemanni* (Rensch, Abh. u. Ber. f. Tier. Volk. du Dresden, xvi. p. 28, 1924), from Eastern Tibet, and therefore becomes a synonym of that name.

Yungipicus hardwickii brunneiceps, subsp. nov.

Description. Similar, sex for sex, to *Y. h. hardwickii*, but much paler everywhere; the colour of the head is a light, almost yellowish-brown ; the upper parts are a paler brown, with more white, especially on the upper tail-coverts ; the lower plumage is paler, with paler brown streaks.

Colours of soft parts as in *Y. h. hardwickii.*

Measurements. Wing 74–80 mm. ; tail 35–40 ; tarsus about 15–16 ; culmen 13–14.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, near Jelwara, Jodpur–Oodeypore road, 12 February, 1878. Hume Collection, No. 87.8.10.526.

Distribution. This is a northern form of true *Y. h. hardwickii*, following the usual Oriental rule of being larger and paler in the north than in the south. It is found in Central and Northern India, north of a line roughly drawn from Khandesh on the west to Bellary in the centre and to the

Nulla Malai Hills of Northern Madras in the east. It extends to the Punjab, Kuman Terai, and the Bhutan Duars, and east to Behar, Bengal, and Orissa.

Material examined. A very large series has been available for examination and comparison with the nearest forms.

Sasia ochracea querulivox, subsp. nov.

Description. Not nearly so dark above as *S. o. ochracea*; above more rufous, less olive, and below much less deep or rufous; the lores are generally a paler grey; the point of the chin is usually grey instead of rufous, and the throat is sometimes distinctly paler.

Colours of soft parts as in *S. o. ochracea.*

Measurements. Much the same as in that bird. Wing 51–56 mm. as against 54–57.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, Tippera Hills, E. Bengal, Jan. 1870. Hume Collection, No. 87.8.10.2238.

Distribution. Assam south of the Brahmapootra, Manipur; Hill Tippera and Chittagong in Eastern Bengal; Chin Hills and the extreme north-west of Burma.

Material examined. A large series.

Megalaima virens magnifica, subsp. nov.

Description. Similar to *M. v. marshallorum*, but much more richly and deeply coloured both above and below. It is intermediate between *M. v. virens* and *M. v. marshallorum*, having the blue head of the latter but the rich colouring of the former, the Chinese form. The streaks on the upper back are few in number and generally white or bluish, not yellow or green as in that bird.

Colours of soft parts as in the other races.

Measurements. The same as in *M. v. virens.* Wing 141–145 mm.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, Machi, Manipur, 8th May, 1881. Hume Collection, No. 88.11.30.40.

Distribution. Assam north and south of the Brahmapootra,

Manipur, Lushai and Chin Hills ; hill-tracts of Tippera and Chittagong in Eastern Bengal.

Material examined. A large series.

Rhopodytes tristis nigristriatus, subsp. nov.

Description. Differs from *R. t. tristis* in having the underparts less tinged with ochre, the striations on the throat extending to the breast, where the black shafts show up strongly, and in its larger size.

From *R. t. longicaudatus* it differs in having the chin, throat, and breast decidedly darker and in being larger.

In *R. t. tristis* the white tips to the tail-feathers are oblique in shape, whilst in *R. t. nigristriatus* they are square and in *R. t. longicaudatus* intermediate.

Measurements. Wing 166–180 mm. as against 148–163 in *R. t. longicaudata* ; tail 360–394 ; tarsus about 40 ; culmen about 31–33.

Type in the British Museum. No sex, Buxa Duars, Jan. to Feb. 1878. Hume Collection, No. 87.12.2.979.

Distribution. Outer Himalayas, Kuman to Assam ; Bengal and possibly Chota Nagpur and Northern Circars (*Jerdon*); Chin Hills and North Burma to Northern Shan States.

The two names, *monticolus* and *montanus* of Hodgs., which are applicable to this bird, are unfortunately both *nom. nuda.* Gray's reference to *monticolus* (J. A. S. B. xl. p. 1095, 1842) merely states that Hodgson's *monticolus* is the same as *longicaudatus*, whilst the same author's reference to *montanus* in Zool. Misc. p. 85, 1844, is merely its enumeration as one of the Cuckoos.

Material examined. A large series of all three forms.

Coryllis vernalis rubropygialis, subsp. nov.

Description. Similar to *C. v. vernalis*, but much darker both above and below ; the rump also is a deeper, duller red.

Measurements. Wing 91–95 mm.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, Belgaum Dist., 1879. Collected by Capt. E. A. Butler. No. 89.1.26.17.

Distribution. South-west coast of India from Cape Comorin to the latitude of Bombay City ; east it occurs in the Nilgiri and adjoining hills.

Material examined. Twenty-five specimens of this new form and a very large series of the typical form.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard read the following report of his observations on the Cuckoo for the season 1926 :—

Curiously enough, the Coal Strike indirectly interfered with Mr. Scholey's Cuckoo observations, as his firm were unable to secure sufficient fuel to keep the pumps going ; consequently the chalk pit was flooded to a depth of 8 feet, and the Pied Wagtails were driven from their usual territory, followed by the Cuckoo.

On the Reed-Warbler territory the 1925 Cuckoo again took possession and deposited fifteen eggs—one in the nest of a Sedge-Warbler and fourteen in the nests of Reed-Warblers.

The first egg was deposited on May 23rd and the last on July 5th, with the usual intervals of approximately 48 hours ; in others there were, for various reasons, intervals of 3 days.

On June 28th Mr. Scholey telephoned me to come down, and I reached the marshes about 4 P.M. A short time afterwards the Cuckoo put in an appearance, though she was not due to deposit her thirteenth egg until about 6 P.M.

We then retired to our "dump" to keep watch, leaving Musselwhite in the next meadow to signal as soon as the Cuckoo reappeared in the vicinity of a Reed-Warbler's nest containing a single egg, the only one available for the reception of the Cuckoo's egg.

After a few minutes' wait she again appeared and flew into the thorn-bushes near the prospective nest. We then fixed the "hide" in position about 8 feet from the Warbler's nest, and after clearing away the obstructing reeds in order to have a clear view of the nest, I entered the "hide" at 6 P.M.

The Reed-Warbler soon put in an appearance and went on to the nest, but did not remain, and it was some time before she was properly settled on the nest, and even then was very restless and kept looking round as though she was expecting her mate or possibly the Cuckoo; *twice she sang while on the nest*—a proceeding quite new to me.

At 6.45 P.M. she hurriedly left the nest, and a few moments later I caught sight of the Cuckoo threading her way through the reeds towards the nest, using her zygodactyl feet in much the same way as a Parrot when climbing about a cage. On reaching the nest the Cuckoo clung on to it in a Woodpecker-like attitude, with the feet firmly grasping the side. She became quite still; then suddenly thrust her head into the nest, repeating the operation until her head disappeared completely.

Having, as I felt certain, accomplished her mission, she flew over the "hide" and was seen by my companions, who came over to the "hide" for my report.

I then related what I had seen, adding that I was sure the Cuckoo had deposited her egg. Mr. Scholey went to look at the Reed-Warbler's nest, and to my surprise called out that it was intact and that there was no Cuckoo's egg.

Why did she visit the nest and not deposit? I am certain she was not disturbed, as she appeared to be in no hurry. Was it merely a visit of inspection, or a count?

The Cuckoo was a very beautiful bluish-grey bird, quite different from the dark one which I saw deposit her egg into a Pied Wagtail's nest in the quarry; she remained at the nest about 7–10 seconds, and I did not hear a note of any description.

On Mr. Scholey's advice I remained in the "hide" for over one and a half hours, as he thought that the Cuckoo might return at any moment, since she had not laid an egg. She did not, however; neither did she use this nest, but deposited her thirteenth egg on July 1st in another Reed-Warbler's nest near by.

The disappointment at not seeing the actual deposition

was amply compensated for by a most interesting and unique experience—one which has proved to me that a Cuckoo has no difficulty in clinging to a nest and placing the head well in for the purpose of depositing by regurgitation should she so desire.

On July 3rd I again went down to see the fourteenth egg deposited; but on our arrival at the marshes about 2.30 P.M. found that the Cuckoo had already deposited in a Reed-Warbler's nest, earlier than she had ever previously deposited either in 1925 or this year.

A third visit proved equally disappointing, as after I had been in the "hide" about twenty minutes, the Cuckoo appeared near the prospective nest and then went right away and was not seen again; her fifteenth and final egg was discovered in a Reed-Warbler's nest on July 6th, although we are certain it was laid on July 5th.

Mr. Scholey has kindly furnished me with the following data of deposition, showing the various intervals :—

Eggs.	Dates.
1st.	May 23rd.
2nd.	„ 25th, before 7 P.M.
3rd.	„ 28th, at 6.30 P.M.
4th.	June 1st.
5th.	„ 3rd.
6th.	„ 5th.
7th.	„ 7th.
8th.	„ 11th.
9th.	„ 19th.
10th.	„ 23rd, at 6.45 P.M.
11th.	„ 25th.
12th.	„ 27th, at 6.5 P.M.
13th.	July 1st.
14th.	„ 3rd.
15th.	„ 5th, at 6.20 P.M.

This Cuckoo did more raiding this year than in 1925; several nests of eggs and young birds were destroyed by her, especially towards the end of the season.

Another confirmatory piece of evidence was in connection with the eight-day break between the eighth and ninth eggs: much the same thing happened in 1922, when a Wagtail Cuckoo had a similar break midway through a series of fourteen eggs laid by her that year.

Mr. Bunyard exhibited a black-and-white drawing by Miss Edna Bunyard, showing the Cuckoo at the Reed-Warbler's nest.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, 10th November, 1926, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine might kindly inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to **give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear,** at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to **give him their MSS.** for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

NOV 1926
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Bird Room

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1926

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCIX.

The three-hundred-and-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, November 10th, 1926.

Chairman : H. F. Witherby.

Members present :—W. Shore Baily ; E. C. Stuart Baker ; D. A. Bannerman ; F. J. F. Barrington ; P. F. Bunyard ; A. L. Butler ; R. H. Deane ; Lieut.-Col. A. Delmé-Radcliffe ; C. de Worms ; A. Ezra ; Major S. S. Flower ; The Hon. M. Hachisuka ; Dr. E. Hartert ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*) ; J. Spedan Lewis ; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*) ; N. S. Lucas ; Lieut.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath ; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr ; G. M. Mathews ; T. H. Newman ; C. Oldham ; G. H. R. Pye-Smith ; C. B. Rickett ; Lord Rothschild ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith ; Major A. G. L. Sladen ; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby ; W. H. Thorpe ; B. W. Tucker ; L. J. Turtle.

Visitors :—Lieut.-Col. J. S. Cameron ; H. B. Cott ; W. Goodfellow ; Dr. C. P. Symonds ; W. S. Flower.

The Hon. M. U. Hachisuka read the following note on "The Nomenclatorial Problem of Mutations" :—

Among birds, mutations are not so frequent as in other groups of animals. There are, however, several generally accepted examples, but their nomenclature is so irregular that, unless some definitely fixed form of nomenclature is used in future, such cases will always prove misleading.

Zoologists since Linnæus have applied the term "Varietas" (usually abbreviated into "Var.") to all classes of specimens which differ from the normal examples of a species, *i. e.*, both to "Geographical Races" and "Individual Variations," also to the class under consideration, *i. e.*, "Mutations." Linnæus, however, only applied the term "Varietas" to "Geographical Races." Modern workers have entirely abandoned the misleading terms "Varietas"="Variety" and apply the term "Subspecies" to denote a "Geographical Race," expressed trinomially, and the term "Aberration" to denote an individual departure from the normal and express it thus "ab. *nigra*." But, hitherto, no special term has been adopted to denote a Mutation. As an example we find the abnormal dark *race* of the Golden Pheasant usually expressed as *Chrysolophus pictus* var. *obscurus*, but it is really a mutation, *i. e.*, a departure from the normal which if paired with a similar bird will breed true, though arising, like an aberration, spontaneously. If, however, an aberration occurs more or less normally, modern writers denote it by the term *forma dimorphica*, abbreviated to "form. dimorph." An example of this is the Wheatear, *Œnanthe hispanica*, which has sometimes a black throat and sometimes a white throat.

However, from modern observations and research into evolution, it is quite clear that many, if not most, of our present-day species have come into existence by evolutionary differentiation from their immediate predecessors, and no doubt quite a considerable number of them by sudden "mutational jumps" accompanied by the capacity of breeding true to type. In the past these mutations in many instances were considered to be distinct species—for example, "The Black-winged Pea-fowl" as *Pavo nigripennis*

of Dr. Sclater and the "Black-throated Golden Pheasant," *Thaumalea obscura* of Schlegel. These were afterwards found to be varieties produced through domestication, but, as they breed true, it would be wrong to call them simply *Pavo cristatus* and *Thaumalea picta* without any qualification. Professor Lönnberg also has described a form of Capercaillie from Kajaani, Finland, as *Tetrao urogallus lugens*. This bird appears to be a wild mutation, and therefore should not be designated as an ordinary subspecies. I propose that all such mutations, both wild and domestic, should be distinguished by the abbreviation "mut.," signifying mutation, thus :—

Pavo cristatus mut. *nigripennis* Sclat.
Chrysolophus pictus mut. *obscurus* (Schleg.).

Of course, such nomenclature can only be used if we have fairly good evidence that the abnormality thus treated is really a mutation and not merely an aberration. In most cases the proof, except by direct breeding experiments, will not be easy to obtain. Much care and investigation must, therefore, be carried out before anyone should make use of this new method of treating mutations as distinct from casual aberrations.

Mr. Hachiska also named the following new mutation of *Phasianus colchicus* :—

After exhibiting and describing the melanistic form of the common Pheasant which I showed at the last meeting of the Club (see Bull. B. O. C. cccv. p. 101, 1926), both Lord Rothschild and Mr. Seth-Smith remarked that this form of Pheasant was well known and that in the Zoological Gardens it had bred true.

I therefore have no hesitation in saying it is a true mutant and I propose to call it

Phasianus colchicus mut. **tenebrosus**, mut. nov.

Type in the Tring Museum. ♂. Norfolk. (For description, see Bull. B. O. C. p. 106, 1926.)

Note.—So far as we know at present, this mutation has only appeared among the semi-feral Pheasants in England.

Contrary to the opinion held by some ornithologists, I consider *Phasianus colchicus* and *P. versicolor* to be two distinct species, not subspecies, and I therefore consider that there is no cross of *versicolor* in the bird above named. At first I hesitated to call it anything but *Phasianus tenebrosus*, mut. nov., but this term is too vague, and rather reluctantly I must add the *colchicus*, as Lord Rothschild points out that it is undoubtedly a true mutant of the *birds* I consider to belong to the "Formenkreiss" of *colchicus*.

At the same time, however, it is theoretically possible that this form of mutation occurs among true *P. versicolor*.

Mr. Hachisuka's remarks were followed by a discussion in which a number of members joined, and from the views expressed it was evident that the majority were against the advisability of naming mutations.

Mr. Hachisuka further described the following fifteen new forms from the Oriental Region :—

Dendrobiastes hyperythrus sumatranus, subsp. nov.

Adult male bluish-slate above, intermediate in colour between *D. h. malayana* and the new form described below. The underside is a very strong rusty yellow of deeper shade than in any of the other subspecies, and the bill is broad and stout as in *D. h. hyperythrus* and *D. h. mjöbergi* from Borneo, and larger than in either *D. h. malayana* or *D. h. vulcani* from Java.

In the female the underside is reddish, of a lighter shade than in *D. h. malayana*.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Siolak Daras, 3000 ft., Korinchi, Sumatra, 25th March, 1914. Collected by H. C. Robinson and C. B. Kloss. Registered No. 1920.6.29.328.

Material examined. Six examples from Korinchi and one from "Sumatra."

Dendrobiastes hyperythrus taivanicus, subsp. nov.

Adult male clear slate-blue above, lighter in tint than any of the other forms ; below similar to *D. h. annamensis*, but slightly lighter.

Female yellowish-brown, lighter in colour than any of the other races and wanting the green tinge.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Tongapo, Formosa, 9th Jan., 1894. Collected by P. A. Holst. Registered No. 1899.7.2.494.

Material examined. Five specimens from Formosa; Tongapo, Laulong, Mt. Arizan and Ho Ho Mt., 5000 ft.

Suya superciliaris klossi, subsp. nov.

Distinguished from *S. s. superciliaris*, Yunnan and Burma, in the absence of black markings on the breast and whiter and less buff under surface.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Dalat, 4500 ft., S. Annam, 7th April, 1918. Collected by C. B. Kloss. Registered No. 1919.12.20.394.

Note.—This race is intermediate between the typical race and *S. s. albogularis* from Sumatra. Birds from the type-locality (Yunnan) have dark markings on the breast which are not shown in the figure on plate ii. of Anderson's 'Zoology of Western Yunnan.' The bird in this plate resembles *S. s. klossi*, but the upper parts and tail are lighter. Examples collected by Delacour in Laos are very heavily marked.

Material examined. Four specimens from Dalat, S. Annam, and a large series from Yunnan and Sumatra.

Horornis canturians taivanorum, subsp. nov.

Distinguished from *H. c. canturians* by the less rufous upperside, especially on the head, the less distinct eyebrows, and more strongly coloured underparts of yellowish-brown, which colour is most conspicuous on the breast and flanks.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Hills near Tamsui, N. Formosa, 24th Feb., 1895, ex C. B. Rickett collection. Registered No. 1905.12.24.722.

Material examined. Over thirty examples of *H. c. taivanorum* and about forty of *H. c. canturians* from S. China.

Note.—La Touche, 'Birds of East China,' part iii. p. 263, suggests that the winter-quarters of *H. c. borealis* are in Formosa, but this is not confirmed by specimens in the British Museum Collection.

A single specimen in the British Museum from N.W. Luzon belongs to the present race.

Setaria albigularis leucogastra, subsp. nov.

Similar in size to *S. a. albigularis*, but distinguished by the lighter underparts, flanks only very light buff, and breast of a pale French grey instead of dark grey.

Measurements :—Wing 73–77 mm. ; tail 57–60.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Paku, Sarawak, Borneo, December 1878. Collected by A. H. Everett. Registered No. 1878.5.3.15.

Material examined. Six examples of the new race from Borneo : Mt. Dulet, Paku, Bintulu, and Lawas R., and a good series of the typical form.

Turdinus macrodactylus bakeri, subsp. nov.

Distinguished from *T. m. macrodactylus* from Malacca by the greyer and less rufous underside, the flanks and under tail-coverts buffish-brown, the back less rufous, and the ear-coverts not so dark as in the typical form. It is also a little larger.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Lam ra, Trang, N. Malay Peninsula, 19th Jan., 1910. Collected by Kuala Lumpur Mus. collector. Registered No. 1910.12.27.295.

Material examined. Five examples of the new form from Chong Hill and Lam ra, Trang, N. Malay Peninsula, and Tung Song Paa, Peninsular Siam, and a considerable number of *T. m. macrodactylus*.

Note.—Named in honour of Mr. Stuart Baker, who has examined the series and agrees that the birds are different. Mr. Baker had previously expressed his opinion on these birds in Journ. Nat. Hist. Siam, vol. iii. p. 187.

Eupetes macrocercus subrufus, subsp. nov.

Specimens from Borneo are very richly coloured, the rufous on the underparts more extensive, and the upper parts are much redder especially on the tail, while the head is very rich brown.

Immature birds can be distinguished from similar specimens of the typical form by the deep brown head and upper surface.

Type in British Museum. ♀. Mt. Dulit, Sarawak, Borneo, 3000 ft., October 1898. Collected by C. Hose. Registered No. 1900.2.15.45.

Material examiued. Six of the new race and about twenty from the Malay Peninsula, Java, Sumatra, etc.

Note.—A skin in the British Museum, No. 94.7.5.65, from Penrisen, is very pale and the bill is slightly longer and cannot be separated from the typical race. Birds from Java and Sumatra appear to belong to *E. m. macrocercus*.

Dicæum hæmatostictum whiteheadi, subsp. nov.

Above glossy metallic blue instead of slate-blue. The black feathers on the breast and abdomen are more abundant.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Mt. Canloan, Negros, 26th March, 1896. Collected by J. Whitehead. Registered No. 1897.5.13.441.

Material examined. Eight of the new form and eleven from Panay and Guimaras.

Dicæum pygmæum palawanorum, subsp. nov.

Distinguished by the larger bill, which is at least 1 mm. longer than in typical bird. It is also larger and the black of the back duller.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Iwahig, Palawan, 26th June, 1907. Collected by W. P. Lowe. Registered No. 1911.11.16.305.

Material examined. Ten specimens of the new race and about twenty from the islands of the Philippines.

Measurements :—

D. p. pygmæum, Philippine Is. Wing 42–47 mm.

D. p. palawanorum, Philippine Is. Wing 45–48 mm.

(The difference in measurements between the sexes is sometimes as much as 6 mm., but as most of the birds examined are not sexed this true difference in the size of the two forms is not clearly shown in the measurements given.)

Zosterops aureiventer parvus, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Z. a. buxtoni* of Java and Sumatra in the smaller size.

Measurements :—*Z. a. parvus.* Wing 46–48 mm.
Z. a. buxtoni. „ 49–53 „

Type in British Museum. ♂. Kina Balu, N. Borneo, 30th March, 1887. Collected by J. Whitehead. Registered No. 1898.9.30.223.

Material examined. Five examples of the new race and nine of *Z. a. buxtoni.*

Zosterops palpebrosa harterti, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *Z. p. peguensis*, but distinguished by its smaller size. From *Z. p. simplex* it differs in the paler coloration and smaller size.

Measurements :—

Z. p. peguensis.	Pegu & Tenasserim.	Wing 55–57 mm.
Z. p. simplex.	S.E. China.	„ 56–58 „
Z. p. harterti.	Formosa and Hainan.	„ 53–55 „ „ 50–55 „

Material examined. Six examples of *Z. p. peguensis*, nine *Z. p. harterti*, and a number of *Z. p. simplex.*

Dr. Hartert, Nov. Zool. xvii. pp. 242–243, 1910, has already remarked on the difference of Formosan specimens, and Mr. Stuart Baker also expressed the same views ('Ibis,' 1922, p. 144).

Type in British Museum. ♂. Nanto Distr., Central Formosa, March 1908. Collected by A. Moltrecht. Registered No. 1909.10.29.11.

Dicrurus leucogenys meridionalis, subsp. nov.

This new race is at once distinguished by its darker plumage and somewhat smaller size. Birds from Western and Northern China are generally darker, while those from S.E. China are the lightest.

Measurements :—

D. l. meridionalis.

3 ♂. Wing 135–142 mm.; outer tail-feather 125–140 mm.
5 ♀. „ 130–140 „ „ „ 125–135 „

D. l. leucogenys.

8 ♂. Wing 135–145 mm.; outer tail-feather 130–140 mm.
2 ♀. „ 139 „ „ „ 130 „

Type in British Museum. ♂. Seven Finger Range, Central Hainan, 16th Nov., 1906. Collected by R. Douglas. Registered No. 1909.8.30.36.

Material examined. Six examples of the new race and over a dozen from Continental China.

Note.—The breeding of this bird in Hainan has not been recorded, and Dr. Hartert, Nov. Zool. xvii. p. 249, suggested that the bird here described was possibly on a winter visit to the island; but I think it is a resident in the high mountains.

Bhringa remifer sumatrana, subsp. nov.

Readily distinguished by the smaller size from the typical form.

Measurements :—

B. r. remifer.

Central tail-feathers 120–125 mm.; wing 131–142 mm.

B. r. sumatrana.

Central tail-feathers 108–120 mm.; wing 125–132 mm.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Sungei Kumbang, Korinchi, Sumatra, 6th April, 1914. Collected by Messrs. H. C. Robinson and C. B. Kloss. Registered No. 1920.6.29.542.

Material examined. Eight examples from Sumatra and five from Java.

Dissemurus paradiseus insularis, subsp. nov.

Distinguished from the typical form by the shorter tail.

Range. Borneo and Sumatra.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Sarawak, Borneo, 20th Sept. 1877, ex Hume Coll. Registered No. 1886.3.1.2416.

Dissemurus paradiseus wallacei, subsp. nov.

Distinguished from the typical form by the exceptionally long tail and greater development of the crest.

Range. Java.

Type in the British Museum. Modjokerto, E. Java, Aug. 1861. Collected by A. R. Wallace. Registered No. 1873.5.12.1984.

Measurements :—

		Wing.	Tail without racket-feathers.
D. p. paradiseus,			
Malay Peninsula.	♂.	134–146 mm.	136–145 mm.
	♀.	137–147 „	141–148 „
D. p. insularis,			
Sumatra.	♂.	139–150 „	130–138 „
	♀.	131–139 „	128–131 „
Borneo.	♂.	134–140 „	125–134 „
	♀.	137–140 „	124 „
D. p. wallacei.		143–150 „	150–160 „

Material examined. Four specimens from Java and about fifteen from each of the other localities.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker sent descriptions of the following four new races of Oriental Owls :—

Athene noctua ludlowi, subsp. nov.

In general colour intermediate between *A. n. noctua* and *A. n. bactriana*—in fact, very similar to *A. n. plumipes* from Shensi, China, but decidedly bigger than that bird, which has a wing between 160 and 165 mm. The amount of feathering on the toes varies considerably, both individually

and seasonally, but in winter most birds have the plumelets extending down the toes almost to the base of the claws.

Colours of soft parts. Iris yellow; bill bright yellow; legs grey, soles yellow (*F. M. Bailey*).

Measurements:—4 ♂, 2 ♀. Wing 169 to 173 mm.; tail 88 to 96 mm.; tarsus 31 to 32 mm.; culmen 18 to 20 mm.

Distribution. Tibet. A bird from the Mishmi Hills is nearest to the present race, but is smaller (wing 164 mm.), and rather darker.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Dochen, Rhamtso Lake, Tibet, alt. 15,000 ft., 10.12.23. Collected by F. Ludlow, No. 40. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1926.11.11.1.

Glaucidium cuculoides.

It appears to be imperative to divide this species into geographical races, for although individual variation is great yet there seem to be three dominant forms. One dark brown in the North-western Himalayas, a second rufous-brown from the Eastern Himalayas to the Shan States, and a third fulvous-brown from Tenasserim. We have therefore

Glaucidium cuculoides cuculoides.

Noctua cuculoides Vigors, P. Z. S. 1831, p. 8.

Simla–Almora Districts.

The general tone dark brown; the barring on the lower plumage very heavy and dark.

Measurements:—Wing 145 to 162 mm.; tail 79 to 90 mm.; tarsus about 24 to 26 mm.; culmen about 19 to 20 mm.

Distribution. Lower Ranges of the North-west Himalayas from Murree and Mussoorie, through the Simla States and Garhwal to Eastern Nepal.

Glaucidium cuculoides rufescens, subsp. nov.

A very much more richly coloured bird than the typical form, the prevailing tint being rufous-brown, the under parts showing this tint even more than than the upper.

Measurements:—Wing 141 to 162 mm.

Distribution. Bhutan Dooars, Assam to the east of the Dibong and south of the Brahmapootra River; Manipur; Tippera and Chittagong in Eastern Bengal; Northern Burma to Pegu; North and South Shan States.

Sikkim birds are pale and large, more fulvous, and not unlike the next race, and more material may show that these high-elevation birds must be divided as a fourth race. For the present I retain them here.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Noong-zai-ban, Manipur, 2nd Feb., 1881. Collected by A. O. Hume. Brit. Mus. Reg. 86.2.1.849.

Glaucidium cuculoides fulvescens, subsp. nov.

Differs from the preceding two races in being paler and also in being more fulvous, especially on the lower plumage, in its general tone of coloration. The breast is nearly always less heavily barred, whilst the streaks on the abdomen are better defined and encroach on the breast.

Measurements:—Wing 134 to 150 mm., once 153 mm.

Distribution. Tenasserim.

Type in British Museum. ♀. Kolidoo, Tenasserim, 3rd Feb., 1874, ex Hume Coll. Brit. Mus. Reg. 86.2.1.858.

Large series examined.

Ninox scutulata isolata, subsp. nov.

Similar to *Ninox scutulata affinis*, but much larger; wing, 185 to 205 mm. as against 167 to 169 in the Andaman bird, culmen 22 mm. in the present race against 20 in *N. s. affinis*.

Distribution. Nicobar, Trinkut, Camoorta Islands.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Car Nicobar, 19th Mar., 1873. Collected by V. Ball. Hume Coll., Brit. Mus. Reg. 86.2.1.621.

Material examined. ♂ 2, ♀ 4, unsexed 2.

Note.—The Nicobar birds seem to be a little browner with less ashy tint on the head and back, but the difference is slight and not of itself of subspecific value.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited a remarkable clutch of four eggs of the Goshawk (*Astur gentilis gentilis*) from Sonnenburg, collected on April 14, 1903, and made the following remarks:—

This exceptionally well-marked clutch came from a well-known German collection, the ground-colour is typical, the so-called pigment, however, is not wholly superimposed, as I have proved by internal illumination.

In addition to the markings on the upper lime-layer, I found well-defined markings on the coherent lime-layer, and the mammillæ-layer*, a most unusual occurrence in the eggs of this species. The faint havana-brown spots which occasionally occur are usually superimposed.

Measurements. 56–58 × 43·4–45 mm. (57 × 44·7 mm., *Rey*).

Weights. 5·121–5·877 m.g. (5·105 m.g., *Rey*).

A. A. Van Pelt Lechner, 'Oologia Neerlandica,' in his treatment of the family Falconidæ, in referring to the eggs of *A. gentilis gentilis*, says:—"Eggs with red-brown pigment spots situated at the surface (in layer III.) are as rare as they are in *Circus æruginosus*, Marsh-Harrier."

From Rey's description, however, it appears without doubt that this author had seen eggs exhibiting small light havana-brown spots on layers I. and II.

The greyish or yellowish *cloudy markings* which Rey mentions I hold to be locally thickened portions of the upper membrane (=layer III.). I have seen eggs in which this membrane seemed to me to be mixed with a very much *diluted* quantity of oorhodein and to be coloured a very light yellow by it.

Otherwise I regard what has been said above respecting accessory and pigment spots in the case of *C. æruginosus* to apply equally here.

Personally I have not yet seen eggs of *C. æruginosus* with genuine pigment-markings.

* 'Oologia Neerlandica,' A. A. Van Pelt Lechner, vol. ii.

Mr. A. L. Butler exhibited a Humming-bird from W. Ecuador, which he was unable to assign to any known species and for which he proposed the name

Eriocnemis söderströmi, sp. nov.

Nearest to the rare *Eriocnemis godini* (Bourc.) of Eastern Ecuador, but differing as follows :—

Forehead greenish-blue, crown much darker and more bronze than the back, turning to velvet-black when viewed from in front, whereas in *E. godini* the forehead and crown are of the same colour as the back, remaining green when viewed from in front ; back of a darker shade ; lower rump and upper tail-coverts dark steel-blue, only margined with green (in *E. godini* they are entirely shining grass-green) ; blue throat-patch much larger, and lower surface darker without the strong golden gloss of *E. godini*.

Wing 66 mm. ; culm. 20·5 ; tail 46 with depth of fork 19.

Type in the British Museum. ♂ ad. Nono, Western side of Pichincha, Ecuador, i. 90. Collected by L. Söderström. Reg. No. 97.11.12.98.

Note on Label.—" Only one specimen found."

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, December 8th, 1926, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine might kindly inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS., not later than at the Meeting, for publication in the 'Bulletin.'

BRITISH MUSEUM
PURCHASED

Bird Room

PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCX.

The three-hundred-and-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, December 8th, 1926.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; Dr. F. J. F. Barrington; Miss M. G. Best; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Hon. G. Charteris; J. L. Chaworth-Musters; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke; Sir P. Z. Cox; A. H. Evans; A. Ezra; Major S. S. Flower; Hon. M. Hachisuka; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); J. Spedan Lewis; Dr. T. G. Longstaff; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Dr. W. N. May; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; Mrs. A. C. Meinertzhagen; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; C. E. Pearson; G. H. R. Pye-Smith; F. R. Ratcliff; C. B. Rickett; Dr. B. B. Rivière; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; H. Stevens; Marquis of Tavistock;

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; B. W. Tucker; H. M. Wallis; C. de Worms.

Visitors:—F. H. Edmondson; Dr. O. Kleinschmidt; G. E. Lodge; K. F. M. Murray; Miss Frances Pitt; Mrs. Rose Haigh Thomas; E. Valpy; Mrs. K. H. I. Valpy.

Dr. O. Kleinschmidt exhibited a male of the rare Humming-Bird (*Oxypogon stübelii*) Meyer, together with the other known species of the genus *Oxypogon*. Dr. Hartert explained that hitherto nothing was known of *O. stübelii* than the type (a female in the Dresden Museum), and an immature male and a female in the New York Museum. The adult male was one of the three collected by the late traveller Fassl on Mt. Tolima, in Colombia. Dr. Kleinschmidt regarded all the forms of *Oxypogon* as a beautiful example of one "Formenkreis."

Dr. Kleinschmidt further said that he dissected three specimens of the so-called *Pavo nigripennis*, a mutant (only known in captivity) of the Common Peacock, and found that they had all tuberculous bones. He would like to know if there was any connection between the illness and the *nigripennis* coloration.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard made the following remarks on the eggs of the Northern Golden Plover (*Charadrius a. altifrons*) from Iceland and the Færoes:—

When in the Færoes in 1905, I was not aware that the local form of Golden Plover was considered to be distinct, otherwise I should have collected a longer series of eggs, as the birds were very plentiful, though I noticed that the plumage was remarkably fine, and called attention to this in 'The Zoologist,' No. 777, March 1906, p. 87.

I collected only three clutches of four each, and give below their weights and measurements, together with a similar number from Iceland and a series of the southern form from Scotland and Yorkshire for comparison:—

Northern Golden Plover (*C. a. altifrons*). 24 eggs.	Southern Golden Plover (*C. a. apricarius*). 24 eggs.
Average 51·7×35 mm.	Average 52·8×36·1 mm.
Max. 55×35·3 „	Max. 55·8×35·2 „
Min. 48×34 „	Min. 49×35·8 „
Weights.	
Average 1·662 mg.	Average 1·762 mg.
Max. 1·892 „	Max. 1·972 „
Min. 1·450 „	Min. 1·538 „

There appears to be no difference in the eggs, except that those of the Southern Golden Plover are slightly heavier, which is what one would expect, as *C. a. apricarius* is a trifle larger in size.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard also exhibited a remarkable clutch of four Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), from Spitsbergen, 15/7/90, taken by G. Nordenskiold, the Arctic explorer.

The whole of the broad ends were heavily capped with rich brownish-black, the remaining portions being only slightly marked.

A very similar clutch of Red-necked Phalarope (*P. lobatus*) from Iceland was also exhibited.

The greater breadth of the former is a fairly constant distinguishing characteristic.

[The following note by Mr. Bunyard should have appeared in the October number of the 'Bulletin,' but was omitted owing to a misunderstanding.—Ed.]

Mr. Bunyard made remarks on Mr. Jourdain's criticisms (vol. xlvi. p. 124) of his exhibition of the eggs of *Ereunetes pusillus* and *Erolia minutilla*, in the course of which he said the five clutches from Labrador in his own possession from the Farn Collection were not actually taken or identified by the Rev. W. W. Perrett as stated by Mr. Jourdain, but were collected for him by different people, as shown by the data, tickets which he exhibited. These facts, Mr. Bunyard stated, were given in his original MSS., but were unfortunately struck out by the Editor.

Mr. Bunyard further remarked that it should be made quite clear that he did not base his remarks on this material only, but upon the series as a whole, viz., the clutches from

Newfoundland and Magdalen Islands in the Massey Collection, and one from the U.S. National Museum taken by E. W. Nelson (an egg of which is figured by Poynting, pl. 34. fig. 6), and that he worked on this last clutch as his type.

Three clutches from the Farn series and two from the Massey Collection, he pointed out, were exactly similar and agree with Nelson's eggs, while two clutches from the former collection and two from the latter belong to the finely stippled form and are also exactly alike.

He stated that in his opinion not one of the ten clutches of *E. minutilla* which he had exhibited could possibly be confused with those of *E. pusillus,* which are larger and heavier, as his weights and measurements prove.

Mr. Jourdain was not present when the original exhibit and remarks were made, and in view of the above facts Mr. Bunyard considered he was justified in including the Perrett series as *E. minutilla.*

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain communicated the following:—

Recently Messrs. Lowe and Kinnear have come to the conclusion that the Wagtails commonly grouped together as subspecies of *Motacilla alba* should be divided into two species, each with a group of subspecies, viz. *M. alba* L. and *M. lugubris* Temm. This is a matter which affects the names of our two British forms of Black and White Wagtails, as if this contention is accepted our birds become *M. lugubris yarrellii* Gould and *M. alba alba* L. As Mr. Stuart Baker has adopted this nomenclature and accepted the specific distinctness of the two forms in his last volume of the Avifauna of British India, and it is referred to by Lord Rothschild in his recent paper on the Birds of Yunnan, it may be worth while to make a few remarks on the subject.

In the first place, my experience of closely allied species in the field is that they show distinctive characters in many ways. *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and *A. palustris* is hardly a parallel case, as they breed side by side over large areas, and no one could possibly maintain from field-observation that they belonged to one species. *Muscicapa hypoleuca* and *M. albicollis* is a better parallel, and here many little characteristics crop up which show that the two species differ in

details of breeding-habits etc. But those who have watched *M. alba* during the breeding-season from the Arctic Circle to S. Spain know that, except for the difference in coloration, it has exactly the habits, notes, and mental characteristics of our Pied Wagtail. The British Yellow and Blue-headed Wagtails have also identical notes, and their behaviour is also similar. On the other hand, the Carrion and Hooded Crows, which are by some ornithologists regarded merely as colour-phases of the same species, do show subtle differences in notes, habitat, etc.

In the Avif. Br. India, Mr. Baker groups under the *lugubris* heading *alboides* (*hodgsoni*), *maderaspatensis*, and *leucopsis*.

What is *M. lugubris lugubris* Temm. ? It is a mixture of Pallas's description of birds of East Siberia (*lugens*), others from France (*yarrellii*), and some from Egypt (? *vidua*), and others from Hungary and the Crimea! It could be used for either *yarrellii* or *lugens*, but fortunately is preoccupied by *M. lugubris* Licht., 1819, which has a year's priority.

Of the three forms grouped by Mr. Baker under *lugubris*, one, *maderaspatensis*, dates back to Gmelin, 1789, while *alboides* and *leucopsis* date from 1836 and 1837, and the "nominat" form *lugubris* to 1820! It is obvious that if we are going to accept the black-throated Wagtails as a species they must be called *maderaspatensis* and our Pied Wagtail will become *M. maderaspatensis yarrellii*!

As showing the curious way in which errors are perpetuated, I may point out that *M. maderaspatensis* is quite rightly omitted by Hartert in his Vögel. Pal. Fauna, i. Yet it appears in Dresser's 'Manual of Palæarctic Birds' (although confined to India and not breeding above 3000′ in the Himalayas) and also in the Brit. Mus. Cat. of Birds, x., by Sharpe, both authors including Turkestan in the breeding-range of this species on the strength of Severtzow's statement in the 'Turkestan. Jevotnie.'

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following :—

Cyrtostomus frenatus hachisuka, subsp. nov.

Differs from *C. f. flavigaster*, from New Ireland, in being darker on the upper surface and in having less orange on the under surface. The bill is slightly longer.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Obi Island, 27th May, 1902, ex. Coll. G. M. Mathews. Registered No. 1911.1.14.9.

Crytostomus frenatus olivaceus, subsp. nov.

Differs from the above in being darker and smaller.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Goodenough Island, 19th December, 1896. Collected by A. S. Meek. Registered No. 98.4.30.17.

On p. 40 *ante*, add Mathews after *Procellaria agilis*.

The Hon. Masauji Hachisuka sent the following descriptions of five new forms :—

Anthreptes malacensis basilanicus, subsp. nov.

This race is distinguished from *A. m. chlorigaster* of Negros in having the under surface more yellowish, the brown of the wing-coverts lighter in colour, and in the smaller size.

Measurements :—

A. m. chlorigaster. Negros. 3 ♂. Wing 71–72 mm.

A. m. basilanicus. Basilan, Mindanao. 7 ♂. Wing 67–71 mm.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Basilan Is., Philippines, Nov. 19th. Collected by J. B. Steere. Registered No. 96.6.6.483.

Material examined. Six examples from Negros and fourteen from Basilan.

Anthreptes malacensis sanghirana, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *A. m. basilanicus*, but differs from it and *A. m. chlorigaster* in having the wing larger and the underparts of a more greenish than yellow tinge.

Measurements :—

A. m. sanghirana. Sanghir Is. 2 ♂. Wing 74–75 mm.

Material examined. Three from Sanghir Is.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Sanghir Is., Sept, 8th, 1876. Shelley Coll. Registered No. 1895.9.9.103.

Leptocoma flammaxillaris annamensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from the typical form in having the underparts greenish yellow and not clear yellow ; the female also has the underparts darker.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Nhatrang, Annam, 2nd Oct., 1905. Collected by J. J. Vassal. Registered No. 1906.12.5.69.

Material examined. Two males, two juvenile males, and four females of *L. f. annamensis*, and a large series from Burmah and Malay of the typical form.

Dicæum cruentatum hainanum, subsp. nov.

This race is distinguished from the Continental form *D. c. coccineum* by its smaller size, the browner throat, and the underparts without any olive tinge. In the female the underparts are more of a buffish than a greenish shade.

Measurements:—

D. c. coccineum.	7 ♂.	Wing 49–54 mm.	; tail 25–29 mm.
	5 ♂.	„ 48–52 „	„ 29–32 „
D. c. hainanum.	6 ♂.	„ 48–50 „	„ 24–28 „
	4 ♂.	„ 47–48 „	„ 25–27 „

Type in British Museum. ♂. Hainan, March 1868. Swinhoe Coll. Registered No. 1898.10.20.27.

Material examined. Ten specimens from Hainan and a series from Southern China.

Note.—There is one specimen from Hainan which is exceptionally large, with a wing of 52 mm.

Excalfactoria chinensis cærulescens, subsp. nov.

Males from Borneo and Sumatra have the upperside much darker, washed with slate-blue, the black markings larger, and the underparts of a stronger blue and brown shade.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Sarawak, Borneo. Collected by A. H. Everett. Registered No. 1878.5.20.38.

Material examined. Five specimens from Borneo, two from Sumatra, and over twenty each of *E. c. chinensis* and *E. c. rostrata.*

Note.—The Celebes bird was separated by Gould as *minima*, but without a larger series—there are only three specimens, ♂ imm. (the type) and two females, in the British Museum—it is impossible to say whether this form should stand or not.

Dr. P. R. Lowe exhibited an example of the rare Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Æchmorhynchus cancellatus*), which had been obtained by the Whitney South Sea Expedition, and made some remarks on its affinities.

On behalf of M. Jean Delacour, Mr. Kinnear pointed out that the name *Lanius colluroides melanocephalus*, Bull. B. O. C. xlvii. p. 13, is preoccupied by *Lanius melanocephalus* Gmelin, and proposed to substitute in its place

Lanius colluroides nigricapillus, nom. nov.,

for the form of the Burmese Shrike found in S. Annam.

Dr. V. G. L. van Someren sent the following description of a new subspecies of Woodpecker :—

Campothera abingdoni kavirondensis, subsp. nov.

In this race the spotting of the upperside is intermediate between that of the races *suahelicus* and *mombassicus* ; and differs from both in the much wider black streaks on the breast and flanks. In the male and to a lesser degree in the female, a black wedge-shaped patch extends from the chin to the upper breast.

Type in my own collection. ♂ adult. Lolgorien, South Kavirondo, May 1925.

Obs.—Seven examples of this race have been taken in the type-locality or near vicinity.

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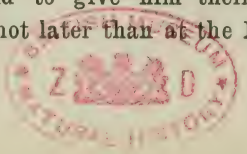

Bird Room.

PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

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No. CCCXI.

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Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; D. A. Bannerman; Dr. F. J. F. Barrington; P. F. Bunyard; Hon. G. L. Charteris; A. Ezra; Major S. S. Flower; Hon. M. Hachisuka; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); N. S. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Capt. W. E. F. Macmillan; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; Mrs. R. Meinertzhagen; C. Oldham; G. H. R. Pye-Smith; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; A. Landsborough Thomson; H. Whistler.

Guests:—Sir H. Macnaghten; Sir Sydney Robinson.

Colonel R. Meinertzhagen exhibited a small collection of eggs from Ladak.

Among the most interesting were two eggs of an Eagle-Owl (*Bubo bubo turcomanus*) taken at Chimre in Ladak at 11,900 feet on 19. v. 25. This is the first time this race has been known to breed within Indian limits.

A clutch of eleven eggs of *Perdix hodgsoniæ caraganæ* was also exhibited, along with a single egg which was laid in the hand by a wounded bird and another removed from the oviduct of a bird being prepared as a specimen. These eggs show the pale blue ground-colour which the egg receives on entering the oviduct, the commencement of brown pigmentation on the prematurely laid egg and the complete brown pigmentation of the egg when it was laid under natural conditions.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker sent descriptions of the following new subspecies of Oriental birds :—

Alcedo meninting phillipsi, subsp. nov.

This race is nearest to the true *A. m. meninting* from Java and the Malay States. Like that bird the bars of the head are deep purple-blue with no green tinge, the general tint is rich and dark and the lower parts deep ferruginous. The wings are boldly spotted with blue, a character not shown in any specimens of *A. m. meninting*.

Colour of soft parts as in all the other races.

Measurements. Wing 65 to 71 mm., bill 35 to 48 mm., in nearly all the wing is over 67 and the bill over 40 mm. In the Javan and Malayan form the wing is 60 to 68 mm., and the culmen almost invariably under and never exceeding 40 mm.

Distribution. Ceylon and South Travancore. A specimen from Pothanee, Madras, appears also to be of this race.

Type in the British Museum : ♂, Cocoawatte Estate, Ceylon. Coll. by A. L. Butler, 12th May, 1895. Reg. No. 1916.9.20.434.

Material examined. Thirteen specimens of *A. m. phillipsi* and a large series of the typical form.

Amaurornis fuscus zeylonicus, subsp. nov.

Very close to typical *A. f. fuscus* from the Philippines, but much paler and faintly tinged with yellowish-olive above. Although the individual variation is considerable, the darkest Ceylon bird is a trifle paler than the palest Philippine bird.

Colour of soft parts as in other races.

Distribution. Ceylon and the south-west coast of India from Travancore to Belgaum and Kanara.

Type. Adult (no sex), in British Museum: Ceylon (*H. Nevill*). Tweeddale Coll. Reg. No. 89.11.3.86.

Measurements of British Museum series of this species :—

	Wing. mm.	Bill. mm.
A. f. fuscus	87– 99	19–21 (14 examined).
A. f. zeylonicus ...	87– 96	19–20 (17 examined).
A. f. bakeri.....	97–110	21–24 (series).
A. f. erythrothorax.	105–122	21–24 (series).

Mr. N. B. Kinnear communicated on behalf of Mr. B. Stegmann the following new races of Eastern Palæarctic Birds :—

Iynx torquilla intermedia, subsp. nov.

Darker and, in the fresh plumage, more brownish than *I. t. torquilla* L. Black patterns of the upperside more developed, especially on the occiput, nape, and scapulars. Throat and chest of a darker buff, sharply set off from the white chin. The barring of the underside generally sharper and somewhat coarser.

Size as in *I. t. torquilla*. Wing 82–89 mm.

Type in Zool. Mus. Russ. Acad. Sci. : ♂ ad., near Tchita, S.E. Siberia, 24th August, 1925. Collected by B. Stegmann.

Material examined. Twenty-five specimens, compared with eighty specimens of *torquilla* (from Europe, Russia and West Siberia) and eight *japonica*.

Distribution. South-eastern corner of Siberia and eastern part of Central Asia (specimens in the Zool. Mus. from Transbaicalia, southern shore of the Okhotski Sea, from

Amur, Ussuri, Eastern Mongolia, Upper Hoang-ho, and Nan-shan).

Note.—*I. t. japonica*, that has been identified up to now with the specimens from East Siberia, has the same development of the black patterns, but the upperside is still browner and the underside a little more yellow. The size is much smaller, too. Wing 76–80 mm.

Cyanopica cyanea tristis, subsp. nov.

Darker and greyer generally than *C. c. cyanea* Pall. ; back light neutral grey to neutral grey (Ridgway, ed. 2, pl. liii.), against drab-grey to light drab (Ridgway, pl. xlvi.) in *cyanea* ; underside without any yellowish tint. Black of the crown with pure blue, instead of violet, reflections. Differences are equally striking in fresh as well as in worn plumage.

Type in Zool. Mus. Russ. Acad. Sci. : ♀ ad., Kruchina near Tchita, S.E. Siberia, 9th May, 1925. Collected by B. Stegmann.

Measurements. Wing 147–155 mm. (male), 138–147 mm. (female).

Material examined. Four specimens compared with twenty-eight specimens of *cyanea.*

Distribution. Probably all over S.E. Siberia from Tchita as far east as the middle Amur ; specimens in the Zool. Mus. from Tchita and from the lower Shilka. The area of the more brownish *cyanea* extends from the middle course of Selenga and Tchikoi, as far as Blagoveschensk and Ussuri-land, lying south of the area of *tristis* ; still farther south as far as Kansu and eastern Nan-shan lives *C. c. swinhoei* Hart., which is still more brownish.

Mr. H. Whistler communicated the description of a new race of Vulture :—

Gyps indicus jonesi, subsp. nov.

Differs from *G. indicus indicus* in the larger size, darker coloration, and thicker covering of the head and neck. The

body-plumage is a dull earthern-brown colour with faint shaft-streaks, this colour being duller and darker even than in either *G. fulvus* or *G. himalayensis*. The crop-patch is a more sooty-brown than in *G. indicus*, and the rump is brown slightly marked with white as opposed to the white rump flecked with brown in the typical form. The head is clothed with thick buffy-white hairs, and the neck with thick white down, as thickly as in *G. fulvus* and *G. himalayensis*. Ruff white tinged with buff, the feathers short and downy in character as in the typical form. Wing 700–750 mm.

Type in British Museum : ♂ ad., Margala range, Rawal Pindi district, 25th January, 1926. No. 6146. H. Whistler Coll. B.M. Reg. No. 1926.9.14.1.

Obs. The breeding Vulture of the low hill ranges 1500–2500 feet between the Salt Range and the Indus, N.W. India. Nests in small colonies on rocky crags.

Named after Mr. A. E. Jones, who procured the first specimen.

The Hon. M. U. Hachisuka sent the following communication :—" Count Gyldenstolpe has informed me that four of the new races described by me in the November ' Bulletin ' have already been described as follows :

" *Dendrobiastes hyperythrus taivanicus* Hachisuka, Bull. B.O.C. xlvii. p. 52 = *Dendrobiastes hyperythrus innexa* (*Siphia innexa* Swinhoe, Ibis, 1866, p. 394 : Formosa). Type in Tring Museum.

" *Eupetes macrocercus subrufus* Hachisuka, Bull. B. O. C. xlvii. p. 54 = *Eupetes macrocercus bornensis* Rob. & Kloss, Jour. Fed. Malay Mus. vol. x. 1921, p. 204.

" *Dissemurus paradiseus wallacei* Hackisuka, Bull. B. O. C. xlvii. p. 58 = *Dissemurus paradiseus formosus* (*Dissemurus formosus* Cab. & Heine, Mus. Heineanum, vol. i. p. 111, footnote, Jan. 1851).

" *Dissemurus paradiseus insularis* Hachisuka, Bull. B. O. C. xlvii. p. 58 = *Dissemurus paradiseus brachyphorus* (*Edolius brachyphorus* Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av. vol. i. p. 351, May 1850)."

Mr. Hachisuka also described a new race of the Italian Sparrow from Corsica :—

Passer italæ payni, subsp. nov.

The Italian Sparrows from Corsica are distinguished by their darker coloration and smaller size. The latter character has already been pointed out by Parrot (Ornith. Jahrbuch, xxi. p. 141).

The mantle of the male is more greenish than buffish, and the tail-feathers are also darker.

Italy.....	7 ♂, 78–81 mm.	4 ♀, 75–78 mm.
Corsica...	7 ♂, 76–77 mm.	3 ♀, 75 mm.

I have named this new race in honour of Lt.-Col. W. A. Payn, who very kindly supplied me with a series from Corsica.

Type in Lt.-Col. Payn's Collection : ♂, Corté, Corsica, 9.12.1925.

Obs. Both Lt.-Col. Payn and myself have visited Corsica on several occasions, but we did not meet with the Spanish Sparrow.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, Febuary 9th, 1927, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine might kindly inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS., for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

The Subscription for 1926–1927—£1 1s. 0d.—became due on September 1st last. Members who do not pay this by banker's order, or who have not already paid, must send their remittance at once to the Treasurer, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

The attention of Members is drawn to the fact that the March Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, March 9th, 1927, in conjunction with the British Ornithologists' Union, will be devoted principally to the exhibition of Lantern-slides. The Hon. Secretary will be glad to hear from any Member who has slides to exhibit, in order that the necessary arrangements may be made.

Bird Room

PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCXII.

The three-hundred-and-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, February 9th, 1927.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; F. J. F. Barrington; Count Bobrinskoy; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Col. S. R. Clarke; Sir Percy Cox; A. H. Evans; Major S. S. Flower; Hon. M. Hachisuka; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); J. Spedan Lewis; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); N. S. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; Mrs. R. Meinertzhagen; J. L. Chaworth Musters; C. Oldham; G. H. R. Pye-Smith; F. R. Ratcliff; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; Marquis of Tavistock; A. Landsborough Thomson; B. W. Tucker; L. J. Turtle.

Guests:—W. B. Alexander; P. W. T. Boughton-Leigh; A. H. Paget-Wilkes; Lt.-Col. W. A. Payn; R. Stringer.

Mr. W. B. Alexander, Vice-Pres. R.A.O.U., gave a short account of some of the habits of Australian Bower-birds (Ptilonorhynchidæ). In this group of birds, related to the Crows, the acquisitive habit seen in the Jackdaw and Magpie reaches an elaborate development, though it is interesting to note that among the Bower-birds themselves the Cat-birds (*Ailurædus*) are not known to collect any objects. The nearly related Tooth-billed Bower-bird (*Scenopœetes*) clears an area on the ground and on it spreads out a number of leaves with their paler under surfaces uppermost. When they wither they are removed and fresh leaves substituted. Between this comparatively elementary habit of play and the elaborate habits of the other species there is a big gap. All other Australian species build definite structures (bowers), within or around which they spread objects of various kinds collected in the vicinity. The Regent-bird (*Sericulus*) appears only rarely to make a bower, and when it does so it is similar to that of a Satin-bird (*Ptilonorhynchus*), but smaller and of inferior workmanship. Does this mean that this species is losing the bower-building habit, or is it in process of acquiring the habit? On account of the great difference between its bill and that of other Bower-birds, Mr. G. M. Mathews has suggested that it is not really a member of the family, and has learned to build a bower in imitation of a true Bower-bird.

The Satin-bird's bower is a passage-way of sticks set into a platform of sticks placed on the ground. On the platform around the bower objects of various kinds are spread out. A collection of these was exhibited, and the speaker emphasized the fact that similar objects, as far as they were obtainable in the district, would be found at the bower of any Satin-bird, the types of objects collected being quite characteristic of the species.

These objects fall into four classes: (1) blue or purplish-blue—flowers, feathers of the Parrot (*Platycercus elegans*), blue glass and china, blue-bags and blue papers; (2) greenish-yellow or pale yellowish—flowers, withered leaves (placed with the yellowest side up), greenish glass and china;

(3) brown—snail-shells, pupa-cases of cicadas, cast snake-skin, puff-balls ; (4) bright or shining—oyster-shells, tinfoil. The flowers are removed when they wither and new ones obtained.

A similar collection of objects from bowers of the Spotted Bower-bird (*Chlamydera maculata*) was exhibited. These also fall into four classes : (1) white—bleached bones, bleached snail- or mussel-shells, bleached shells of Emu's eggs, quartz pebbles, fragments of telegraph insulators ; (2) dark green—unripe fruits, berries, and seed-pods, Emu egg-shells, green bottle-glass ; (3) dull olive—smooth pebbles, mussel-shells, dead millepedes ; (4) bright or shining—clear glass, bits of wire and tinfoil. The green fruits and berries are removed as soon as they turn yellow or red.

Both species at once reject red or bright yellow objects placed at their bowers.

The passage-way of the Spotted Bower-bird is not built on a platform, but the sticks and grass-stems of which the walls are composed are stuck into the ground. The sticks used are short and serve mainly as supports for the long grass-stems. The tops of the sticks sometimes form a shelf, along the inside of which the bird places some of its special treasures.

It has recently been found that certain Satin Bower-birds in the Sydney National Park at Port Hacking, N.S.W., paint the sticks on the inner faces of their bowers with a black material. The origin of the substance used has not been discovered, but the bird has been seen by Mr. Nubling with this material in its beak painting each stick in turn. Some blackened sticks from bowers in this locality were exhibited. The material is washed off by rain and is renewed by the bird. Bowers of this species which the speaker had inspected in Queensland showed no trace of similar decoration.

Part of the wall of a bower of the Spotted Bower-bird found by Mr. D. W. Gaukrodger near Blackall, in Central Queensland, was also exhibited. On the inner face the grass-stems composing this bower, from the level of the shelf

of sticks as high as the bird could reach, had been stained with a reddish-brown colour. This was the only painted bower found by Mr. Gaukrodger, though he examined over fifty others in the district.

This painting of the bowers by a few individuals of two species belonging to different genera raises an interesting problem. Did all Bower-birds formerly paint their bowers, and are those which practice the habit carrying on an ancient custom now almost lost? Or are these individuals pioneers developing a new fashion? In the latter case it seems certain that the birds of the two species have independently invented this plan of decorating their bowers, as the Satin-bird inhabits the sub-tropical jungles near the coast, whilst the Spotted Bower-bird lives in the arid districts of the interior.

Mr. C. Boden Kloss sent the following note :—

The Names and Races of the Red Jungle-Fowl (*Gallus gallus*).

In a recent paper Lord Rothschild, premising that the Red Jungle-Fowl has provoked an enormous literature but very few names, proceeds to add to the scanty total of the latter by proposing *Gallus gallus robinsoni*, nom. nov., for the Eastern bird (Nov. Zool. xxxiii. 1926, p. 206). In doing this he seems to have overlooked some remarks on the subject by Mr. J. H. Ryley in Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. lxiv. 1924, p. 9, from which the following is quoted :—

"Robinson and Kloss (Records Indian Mus. xix. 1920, p. 13) have called attention to the fact that Linnæus himself, in the twelfth edition of the 'Systema Naturæ' (p. 270), had already restricted the type-locality to Pulau Condor, off the mouth of the Mekong, and this applies with equal force to the tenth edition (p. 158), where the same locality is given. In a later article Kloss (idem, p. 181) says : 'Nevertheless we cannot accept *Phasianus gallus* of the "Systema Naturæ" as the name of the Red Jungle-Fowl, for Linnæus had used it previously in the "Fauna Suecica" for domesticated

European birds, and it cannot be employed again for something else.' In this contention Kloss is in error: Linnæus was non-binomial in the 'Fauna Suecica' until the 1761 edition, and the names used there before that time have no standing. Now, as Linnæus himself restricted the type-locality by writing 'India orientali: Pouli candor, etc.,' when he named the species in the first work in which he was consistently binomial, and which is universally recognized as the starting-point of our modern nomenclature, it seems to me the three races of the Red Jungle-Fowl that have been recognized to date should stand as follows:—

"(a) *Gallus gallus gallus* (Linnæus), Syst. Nat. ed. 10, 1758, p. 158 (Pulau Condor, off the mouth of the Mekong).

"(b) *Gallus gallus bankiva* Temminck, Pig. et Gall. vol. ii. 1813, pl. 87 (Java).

"(c) *Gallus gallus murghi* Robinson & Kloss, Records Indian Mus. vol. xix. 1920, p. 14 (Chirala, Gya District, Bihar).

"The ranges will be the same as those given by Robinson and Kloss in the last paper cited above."

With this argument I now agree. And the question of domestic names does not arise: *Gallus gallus* is as though it had never been till applied to the Pulau Condor bird in 1758, and *Gallus gallus gallus* is the name for the first of the three races we now recognize.

M. Jean Delacour sent the following note on *Dryonastes maesi*:—

I have just obtained a large series of *Dryonastes maesi* on the Fam-Dao Mts., in Central Tonkin. All the birds were collected above 3000 ft., where they are common, but they do not appear to occur at lower elevation.

It is accordingly necessary to alter the last paragraph of my note on the species in the October number of the 'Bulletin' (vol. xlvii. 1926, p. 23) and to fix the type-locality as the Fam-Dao Mts.

Szechuan birds seem to me to be identical with the somewhat old and faded type-specimen of *D. maesi*, but it

remains to be seen whether they will agree with the fresh series just obtained.

I would also like to mention that M. P. Jabouille has collaborated with me as before in all the work of collecting and sorting the birds obtained during the Indo-Chinese Expedition of 1925–26.

Mr. W. L. Sclater sent, on behalf of Dr. E. Hopkinson, the wing and tail of a Pintail Duck (*Dafila acuta*) shot at Sallikenni, Gambia, on 13th January, 1927. This is the first record for the Gambia and the coast of West Africa, and though the Pintail has been met with in the eastern side of Africa as far south as Tabora in Tanganyika Territory not infrequently, it had only been previously recorded from the western side by Dr. Hartert, who (Nov. Zool. 1924, p. 13) records a female obtained in the oasis of Bilma in the French Sahara on November 3rd, 1922, by Captain Angus Buchanan, and Mr. C. Francis obtained it in Bornu ('Ibis,' 1924, p. 523).

The following is taken from Dr. Hopkinson's letter:—

"I shot last night, at Sallikenni, a Pintail Duck and a Garganey out of the same flock of hundreds, about a third of them Pintails. Garganeys quite common, but this is the first Pintail I have seen in Gambia. The record may be of interest. I send wing and tail to make certain.

"Gambia is a wonderful place for European birds in winter. Of other ducks, Wild Duck are quite common, Shoveler occasional, and I have twice seen flocks of Tufted Duck in November on the river.

"Others are Common Snipe, occasionally; three shot one Christmas Day. Yellow Wagtails, White Wagtails, Whinchats and Woodchat-Shrikes (in this order common) all winter birds here; while in the first week of most Octobers the trees in Bathurst are full of Willow-Warblers and other similar birds. Turtle-Doves: flocks (large ones) often pass through on their way north, and smaller ones are sometimes seen but not obviously passing south, loitering about in November and December, but they never stay long anywhere, either coming or going.

"Waders are many and many must be European, but I do not know them well enough, but Purple Sandpipers, Godwits, and Curlew-Sandpipers I know are here in winter. Also Ring-Plovers. The Ring-Plover resident here I take to be from your 'Systema' *C. pecuarius*."

Mr. W. L. Sclater communicated descriptions of the following three new African Birds:—

Buccanodon belcheri, sp. n.

Description. ♂. Crown and nape, sides of the face, chin, throat, and upper breast shining black; on the back the black fades into dull olive-green on the middle of the back, wings, and tail; the primaries dusky, edged along their middle portion, also the secondaries, with a golden olive; below dull greyish-olive, a band of which colour extends forward on either side of the black breast to the ear-coverts. Iris dark; bill black; feet greenish black.

Measurements. Length about 190 mm.; wing 96; tail 60; exposed culmen 18; tarsus 24.

The female closely resembles the male in plumage and dimensions (wing 94), but has a somewhat differently shaped bill, rather longer (exposed culmen 20) and more slender.

Type in British Museum: ♂, obtained 5 Dec., 1926, on Cholo Mountain, Nyasaland, at 4500 feet by Mr. C. F. Belcher. No. 1927.

Note.—A pair only of this very fine new Barbet was obtained recently in Nyasaland by Mr. C. F. Belcher, M.B.O.U., and presented to the Museum. It is a very distinct form, but appears to be nearest to *B. olivaceum* (*Barbatula olivacea* Shelley, 'Ibis,' 1880, p. 334), of which there are three examples in the British Museum, the type from Rabai (near Mombasa) and two from the Uluguru Mts. in Tanganyika Territory. From this species our new Barbet differs in its larger size and the black of the head and breast, which in the case of *B. olivaceum* are brown and olivaceous respectively.

Alethe choloensis, sp. n.

Description. General colour above, including the crown and the sides of the face, wood-brown, slightly more dusky on the head and tail, the primaries blackish but edged with the wood-brown of the back, so that the wings when folded are like the back ; below the chin and throat clear white and well defined from the rest of the underparts, which are a dirty white becoming whitish in the middle of the belly and on the under tail-coverts ; the outer tail-feather conspicuously terminated with a white tip and the three succeeding pairs of rectrices with a gradually decreasing white tip, the the central pair without white tips. Iris rich deep brown ; bill black ; legs and feet pale flesh.

Measurements. Total length (in skin) about 200 mm. ; wing 99 ; tail 77 ; culmen 17 ; tarsus 30.

Type in British Museum. ♀ obtained 30th Oct., 1926, on Cholo Mountain, Nyasaland, in forest by Mr. C. F. Belcher.

Note.—Only the single type-specimen was sent. This handsome new species appears to be quite distinct from any other previously described. On the whole, it appears to be nearest to *Alethe diademata*, but is quite distinct as it lacks the characteristic rufous patch on the crown whence the West African form derives its name.

Mr. Belcher, who is much to be congratulated on having obtained two such fine new species, has most generously presented the types and a further small collection of rare Nyasaland birds to the Natural History Museum. Among them is a second example of *Callene macclouniei*, hitherto only known from the type described by Shelley in the 'Bulletin' for 1903, also from Nyasaland.

The White-Eye of Sierra Leone has hitherto been considered identical with the typical race from Senegal, but it is obviously separable and may be described as follows :—

Zosterops senegalensis leoninus, subsp. n.

Differing from the typical race in its darker and more greenish back, while below, instead of being a bright yellow,

it is dull yellowish-green slightly washed with olive. The forehead is slightly yellowish, but there is no well-marked frontal band, nor does the yellow extend over the eye as it does in some races. In size it does not appear to differ from the typical race, the wing averaging 53 mm. in males and 52 mm. in females.

Type in the British Museum: ♂ collected by Robin Kemp at Bo, Sierra Leone, April 1904. Reg. No. 1905.1.25.45.

Distribution. There are in the Museum eight examples from Sierra Leone collected by Robin Kemp, Willoughby, Lowe, and Major Kellsall, and a single specimen from Agoulerie in Lower Nigeria also collected by R. Kemp.

Note.—The only White-Eyes from the Gold Coast in the British Museum are from the interior, and are undoubtedly *Z. s. senegalensis.* Probably those from the coastal districts are the same as the Sierra Leone ones.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst forwarded the following notes:—

1. The Baluchistan Race of *Halcyon smyrnensis smyrnensis.*

Dr. Laubmann has recently (Verh. Orn. Ges. Bay. xvii. 1926, pp. 36–48) made a short review of the White-breasted Kingfishers (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), and has separated as a recognizable race *H. s. zugmayeri*, the Kingfisher of Beluchistan and N.W. India, and this he does on the shorter wing-measurement—119–124 mm., against 123–131 mm. in the typical form from Asia Minor. He does not say how many specimens he has examined, but it appears to me that this is still yet another example of creating new races on too little material.

I have examined 17 specimens from Asia Minor (wing, ♂ ♀, 120–130 mm.) and 38 specimens from Beluchistan to Punjab (wing, ♂ ♀, 120·5–130 mm.). It will thus be seen that there is not the slightest foundation for making another race of the species—indeed, out of the 38 specimens examined

of so-called *zugmayeri* no less than 31 are within the range of wing-measurement of the typical race as given by him! Though the range of wing-measurement in the two sexes is practically the same, females often are longer-winged and average 126 mm. against 124 mm. in males.

2. The Races of the Indian White-Eye (*Zosterops palpebrosa palpebrosa*).

The races of the Indian *Zosterops* and their distribution have long puzzled me, and the arrangement now given in the second edition of the 'Fauna of British India' in no wise tallied with my experience, but I have only recently been able to go thoroughly into the question. I have examined over 300 *Zosterops palpebrosa* in coming to the following conclusions.

Zosterops palpebrosa of Temminck (Pl. Col. 293, fig. 3, 1824) was founded on a bird received from Dussumier from Bengal, and it is highly probable, as Dussumier was a French Mercantile Marine captain, that he got it at Chandernagore, near Calcutta. However, Bengal is certainly the type-locality. Temminck's plate depicts, so far as one can tell from a plate, the darker greener type of *palpebrosa*, and this type certainly inhabits Bengal. In 'The Ibis,' 1922, p. 144, Mr. Baker has separated the bird from Sikkim as *elwesi* as brighter and more yellow above, paler below, and *smaller* than the Bengal bird. It is true that there is a brighter yellower form of *palpebrosa* in India, but it certainly does not come from Sikkim, and, moreover, it is *larger*, not smaller, than the Bengal bird. Sikkim birds I cannot differentiate in any way from Bengal ones, and *elwesi* therefore becomes a synonym of *palpebrosa*. The brighter yellower bird then has no name, and I propose to call it

Zosterops palpebrosa occidentis, subsp. nov.

Brighter and yellower, less green above than *palpebrosa*, and paler on the underparts.

Measurements. Wing, ♂ ♀, 53–59 mm.; bill from base mostly 11·5–13 mm.

Material examined. Eighty-two specimens.

Type in British Museum: ♂, Simla, 19th Oct., 1880. Hume Coll. No. 1886.12.1.1613.

Distribution. N.W. Himalayas (Vale of Nepal westwards to Kashmir), N.W.F.P., Punjab, Sind (Karachi), W. United Provinces, Central Provinces east to Raipur, Rajputana and Bombay Presidency south to N. Kanara; two from Mysore also appear to be this race.

In the Nilgiris and Palani Hills occurs a *Zosterops* which certainly cannot be united with *occidentis*, and it is too large, both in wing and bill, to unite with the typical bird, though it is of the same darker greener type; for this I propose the name

Zosterops palpebrosa nilgiriensis, subsp. nov.

Much as in *Z. palpebrosa palpebrosa*, but larger. Wing, ♂ ♀, 53 and 54·5–58 mm.; bill from base 13–14 mm.

Material examined. Twenty-one examples.

Type in British Museum: ♂, Coonoor, 28th Jan., 1881. Collected by W. Davison. Hume Collection. No. 1886.12.1.1690.

Distribution. Nilgiri and Palani Hills, and ? Andamans.

Mr. Baker (*loc. cit.*) further separated the Assam bird as *Z. p. cacharensis* as having almost invariably a distinct yellow streak down the centre of the abdomen and being smaller than the typical race—wing 49–54 mm. Now I have examined Mr. Baker's type and 61 skins from Assam, and I cannot see that the yellow abdominal streak is sufficiently constant; in the type there is just the merest trace, and only 22 out of the 61 Assam birds show it. But this abdominal streak, or a trace of it, is found also in birds outside Assam, and in *occidentis* it is only very occasionally seen. The wings of Assam birds measure, according to Mr. Baker, 49–54 mm., which is just about the range of

measurement I find in the typical race. I consider therefore that *Z. p. cacharensis* is also a synonym of *palpebrosa*.

Turning now to the typical form, lack of material prevents the accurate sketching of the range southwards, birds from the east side of India and Hyderabad State being wanting. The following appears to me to represent the distribution, with the number of specimens examined :—

Bengal (4), whole of Assam [including the Miri, Mishni, Naga, Garo, Khasia, and Tipperah Hills and Manipur] (62), Sikkim (31), Kauri Kachin (3), W. and N.W. Yunnan (20), S. Shan State (15), and Karenni (3).

All these birds are of the darker greener type, and I cannot separate any of them. The measurements range from 49 to 55·5 mm. in the wing and 11·5 to 13 mm. in the bill.

It is curious to find that a brighter and yellower bird than even *occidentis* inhabits Ceylon (*Z. p. egregia* : wing 53–57 mm., bill 12–13·9 mm.—9 specimens) and also the Laccadives (wing 55–57 mm., bill 12·5–13·5 mm.—6 examined), Ceylon races, as a rule, being darker than Northern Indian. The Nicobars are inhabited also by a recognizable race (*Z. p. nicobariensis* : wing 50–53·5 mm., bill 13–14 mm. —17 examined), a dull greenish bird with a long, rather stout bill. The bird from the Andamans has an equally large bill, but the wings are longer, 52–56 mm., and it is doubtful if these can be satisfactorily separated from the Nilgiri bird, though the latter seem, on the whole, a trifle brighter on the upper parts.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews described a new race of small Kingfisher :—

Micralcyone pusilla masauji, subsp. nov.

Differs from *M. p. aolœ* Ogilvie-Grant in being of a deep purplish blue on the upper surface ; the blue on the chest forms a band.

Type in British Museum. Wood Harbour, New Ireland. Collected by the Rev. G. Brown. Reg. No. 1881.3.29.94.

The Hon. M. U. Hachisuka exhibited and made remarks on a variety of a Common Guinea-Fowl :—

Only two types of colour-variation were hitherto known among our domesticated Guinea-Fowl, albinos and violet-coloured, the former being the commonest. The present specimen is melanistic with the back blackish-slate and the rest of the body black with a strong gloss. It has no pattern at all, except on the abdomen, where a few white barrings are to be found.

The primary feathers are normal, except the first and second, which are pure white. Colours of soft parts are the same as the normal domesticated Guinea-Fowl.

This bird was killed in Cambridge on February 4th. There is apparently no record of a similar variation known.

On behalf of Professor M. Menzbier, Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker exhibited a book of magnificent plates of a number of the Falconidæ, partly by our fellow-member, G. E. Lodge, and partly by B. Batazan. These plates, together with many photogravures, also exhibited, were intended to illustrate a 'Monograph of the Jer Falcons,' and probably form the finest set of illustrations of any group of the Falconidæ ever produced.

Mr. Stuart Baker read the following letter from Professor Menzbier in connection with the above exhibit :—

"Among my more or less finished ornithological researches, I have a complete memoir, written in English, a 'Monograph of the Jer Falcons from the Standpoint of Evolution,' in which I describe the different variations and analyse the mutual relationships of *Gennaia sacer*, *saceroides*, *milvipes*, *hendersoni*, *lorenzi*, *altaicus*, *Hierofalco gyrfalco*, *labradorus*, *islandus*, and *candicans*. I have been engaged upon this work now for nearly 50 years and have gradually formed, for this Monograph, a collection of more than one hundred specimens of Falcons. This, in 1912, I handed over to the Zoological Museum of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences.

"In my Memoir I have also brought together numerous data bearing on sexual dimorphism, convergent develop-

ment, and the progressive changes due to age in the different species of Jer Falcons. I have likewise endeavoured to work out the geographical distribution and to give a sketch of the probable geological history of these Falcons. Eleven chromotypes and seventeen phototypes, illustrating the types and the variability of the Jer Falcons have been executed for the Monograph. Some of the phototypes perished in 1912, but, luckily, they can be reproduced.

"Considering my advanced age and weak state of health, I have not great hopes of seeing this work of mine in print, all the more so as it still needs 5 or 6 coloured plates, two phototypes, and a geographical map, which it is quite beyond my means to undertake. The 33 first plates were printed at my own expense—the chromotypes by Greve in Berlin and the phototypes in our Museum. Nevertheless, desiring that some record of my lifelong work may remain in the annals of Ornithology, and wishing at the same time to acquaint my foreign colleagues with the scientific results attained, I am asking you to exhibit these plates at one of the meetings of the British Ornithologists' Union."

The plates exhibited include *Gennaia sacer*, *G. saceroides*, (2), *G. milvipes* (2), *G. lorenzi* (4), *G. altaica, Hierofalco gyrfalco, H. labradorus*, and *H. islandus*. There is also one plate of heads and another of feathers, and 17 phototypes.

The plates were very much admired, and in the discussion which followed the opinion was expressed that it would be a very great loss to Ornithology if Professor Menzbier's work could not be published. Mr. Stuart Baker informed the meeting that a special meeting of the Committee of the B. O. U. would be called to consider whether a scheme could be drawn up either to publish or assist in publishing this work.

Two photographs of a Frigate-Bird (*Fregata ariel* subsp. ?), killed at Charbarovsk, Eastern Siberia, were also exhibited on behalf of Professor Menzbier. This example is believed to be the first specimen actually obtained in the Palæarctic Region.

Messrs. H. C. Robinson and C. Boden Kloss forwarded the following communication :—

Various races of Oriental birds described in a recent number of the 'Bulletin' (*antea*, pp. 52–60) appear to call for remark.

Dendrobiastes hyperythrus sumatranus (p. 52).

The type-set of this race formed part of our own very large series, of which the bulk is still in our hands. In the Korinchi Report (Journ. F.M.S. Mus. viii. pt. ii. 1918, p. 160) we considered the advisability of naming the Sumatran form, but decided that individual variation masked any subspecific differences.

As a matter of fact, Sumatran females are *richer* coloured on the breast than in *D. h. malayana*, but our series of the latter is not very adequate. Some Sumatran males can be matched by others from the Malay Peninsula. The bill is certainly somewhat more robust than in other Indo-Malayan races.

Setaria albigularis leucogastra (p. 54).

A pure synonym of *Ophrydornis albogularis moultoni* R. & K., Bull. B. O. C. xl. 1919, p. 17 (Type from Betong Saribas, S.W. Sarawak). The genus is, we think, not Timaliine at all, but Muscicapine.

Turdinus macrodactylus bakeri (p. 55).

Possibly justified : we have re-examined considerable series, including absolute topotypes of *bakeri*. Occasionally specimens answering to the northern form occur in the south of the peninsula.

Zosterops aureiventer parvus (p. 56).

A synonym of *Zosterops aureiventer media* R. & K., Ibis, 1923, p. 152.

We have re-examined specimens of *Z. a. media* from

S. Sarawak and others from the north of the state and find no differences. The type of *Z. a. parvus* comes from only about 1000 feet altitude on Kina Balu, so that it is not a mountain form. The type-series of *Z. a. media* were from a very similar elevation in S.W. Sarawak.

Bhringa remifer sumatrana (p. 57).

Our very large series of both Javan and Sumatran birds—all measured in the flesh—show that birds from these islands cannot possibly be separated on size. The tail-rackets may show racial characters, but our Sumatran birds are singularly deficient in this respect, having much worn tails.

Dissemurus paradiseus wallacei (p. 58).

A pure synonym of *Dissemurus formosus* Cab. Mus. Hein. i. 1850, p. 111 (footnote).

We have a very large series from all parts of Java. The tail is certainly not longer than those of the Continental races (*D. p. paradiseus* comes from Siam), and the crest has a lesser, not "greater development." Perhaps it has been compared with the Bornean *D. p. brachyphorus*, regarding which these statements are true.

[Messrs. Robinson and Kloss also point out that *Dissemurus paradiseus insularis* and *Eupetes macrocercus subrufus* have already been described, *cf.* p. 75, *ante*.—Ed.]

Glaucidium cuculoides fulvescens (p. 60).

On dimensions Mr. Stuart Baker has apparently made out a case for the separation of this race, though it is unfortunate that he has selected as type a specimen from the extreme northern verge of the range. In 1922, in default of northern material, we refrained from recognizing it (Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam, v. 1922, p. 113). If distinct, it will undoubtedly have to bear Parrot's name, *Athene cuculoides brugeli* (Ornith. Gesellschaft in Bayern, viii. 1907, p. 104 (Bangkok)).

We have it from Peninsular Siam, Cochin China, and S. Annam. To the north (Tonkin etc.) it probably intergrades with *G. c. whitleyi* Blyth ('Ibis,' 1867, p. 313), the type of which came from China; the race is stated to migrate south in winter. The number of bars on the tail is a rather variable feature, but northern birds appear to have more.

PICUS VIRIDANUS MERIDIANUS.

Ibis, 1926, p. 689.

After traversing these races of other authors Kloss has to place himself *in loco penitentii.*

The above name has to give place to

PICUS (GECINUS) WEBERI Müller,

described at length from Junk Seylon ('Ornis Salanga,' 1882, p. 69).

ERRATA TO 'BULLETIN,' No. CCCVIII., OCTOBER 13, 1926.

Page	8,	line	9, *for* **laotinus** *read* **laotianus.**
„	8,	„	27, *for* **neveni** *read* **neveui.**
„	9,	„	6, *for* Neven *read* Nevu.
„	15,	„	5 & 8, *for* Noug-Het *read* Nong-Het.
„	19,	„	26, *for* Thua-Lua *read* Thua-Luu.
„	20,	„	11, *for* lighter *read* brighter.
„	20,	„	19 & 21, *for* Noug-Het *read* Nong-Het.

NOTICES.

Combined B. O. U. and B. O. C. Dinner.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, March 9th, 1927, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m. Members are reminded that this Dinner is held conjointly with the Annual Dinner of the B. O. U., and that they are allowed to bring Lady Guests.

The Meeting will be devoted to the exhibition of Cinema Films and Lantern Slides of various Ornithological subjects.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, in order that the necessary seating arrangements may be made. Failure to do so may result in no seat being available, as the accommodation has to be arranged beforehand They need not notify the Secretary of the B. O. U. as well, one notice being sufficient.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY) Z D
PURCHASED

Bird Room.

PURCHASED 1927

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCXIII.

The three-hundred-and-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, March 9th, 1927, in conjunction with the Annual Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union.

Lord Rothschild, the President of the B. O. U., took the Chair during the Dinner; and

Mr. H. F. Witherby during the subsequent proceedings.

Members of the B. O. C. present:—W. Shore Baily; C. E. Baker; E. C. Stuart Baker; F. J. F. Barrington; Miss M. G. S. Best; Count Bobrinskoy; A. W. Boyd; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Hon. G. L. Charteris; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke; N. Coltart; Sir Percy Cox; R. H. Deane; A. H. Evans; A. Ezra; K. Fisher; Major S. S. Flower; J. M. Goodall; S. H. Hart; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); G. C. Lambert; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe; N. S. Lucas; F. Ludlow; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; Mrs. Meinertzhagen; J. L. Chaworth Musters; C. Oldham; C. E. Pearson;

H. L. Popham ; G. H. R. Pye-Smith ; F. R. Ratcliff ; R. H. Read ; C. B. Rickett ; Lord Rothschild ; A. D. Sapsworth ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith ; Sir Malcolm Seton ; Major A. G. L. Sladen ; J. W. C. Stares ; Capt. H. S. Stokes ; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby ; A. Landsborough Thomson ; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst ; B. W. Tucker ; Miss E. L. Turner ; L. J. Turtle ; H. Whistler ; J. Sladen Wing ; H. F. Witherby ; C. de Worms.

Members of the B. O. U. present :—Miss Barclay Smith ; E. Bidwell ; H. B. Booth ; Dr. P. A. Buxton ; R. Chislett ; K. J. A. Davis ; J. S. Dyson ; F. H. Edmondston ; H. Gladstone ; W. E. Glegg ; Miss Godman ; R. E. Heath ; L. M. Jopling ; Brig.-Gen. H. R. Kelham ; Miss E. M. Knobel ; Mrs. F. E. Lemon ; E. H. N. Lowther ; Miss F. Pitt ; E. F. Stanford ; J. K. Stanford ; E. Valpy ; Capt. Waud; Capt. W. Webber ; T. Wells.

Guests :—Dr. Anister ; Mrs. Anister ; Miss Shore Baily ; Mrs. E. C. Stuart Baker ; Miss Baker ; S. J. Baker ; A. Bell ; P. Broughton-Leigh ; Mrs. P. F. Bunyard ; Miss Bunyard ; Mrs. Butler ; Lady Gwendolin Churchill ; Miss Clarkson ; Lady Cox ; Miss Crosby ; V. Davis ; Mrs. Flower ; Mrs. H. Gladstone ; Mrs. Glegg ; Dr. A. H. Harkness; Mrs. A. H. Harkness ; Mrs. Hartert ; F. J. Howell ; J. Bertram Jones ; Mr. F. E. Lemon; Mrs. G. C. Low ; Mrs. P. R. Lowe ; Mrs. Mackworth-Praed ; Mrs. Nicoll ; Col. Norton ; Mrs. Norton ; F. Pike ; Mrs. H. L. Popham ; Mrs. G. H. R. Pye-Smith ; A. Rieber ; Mrs. Sapsworth ; Mrs. W. L. Sclater ; Lady Seton ; W. J. Sholto Douglas ; Com. Skinner, R.N. ; Mrs. A. G. L. Sladen ; Mrs. Landsboroguh Thomson ; Mrs. B. W. Tucker ; J. Vincent ; Mrs. Walshe ; Capt. Kingdon Ward ; Mrs. Waud ; Duchess of Wellington ; Mrs. Welsh ; Mrs. Whistler ; Mrs. Sladen Wing ; Mrs. Witherby ; and eight others.

The Annual Dinner of the B. O. U., held in conjunction with the B. O. C., was not quite so large as last year, 144 members of the Union, Club, and their guests attending, as against 151 in 1926.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith commenced the evening with an exhibition of a very interesting cinema-film showing the wonderful display of the Argus Pheasant, taken by Mr. Martin Duncan in the Zoological Society's Gardens.

Mr. Chislett showed a number of beautiful photographs of northern birds in their breeding-haunts, the results of his trip last year to Lapland. Among these were pictures of a Redwing feeding its young, Jack-Snipe and Broad-billed Sandpiper on their nests, and a Buffon's Skua with its chick.

Mr. J. H. Owen, unfortunately, was unable to be present and personally explain his interesting film of a female Sparrow-Hawk and her young, but sent some explanatory remarks, which were read by Dr. G. C. Low. The film showed the gradual growth of the chicks, how the mother feeds them and uses her body and wings to shelter them from the sun.

On behalf of Mr. Scholey, Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited a series of slides of a Cuckoo at the nests of Pied Wagtails in a quarry at Cliff-on-Hoe. These photographs were part of Mr. Scholey's investigations into the egg-depositing habits of the Cuckoos.

The evening was brought to a close by Mr. E. H. N. Lowther, who showed a number of photographs of Indian birds, often taken under very trying conditions, which included Jacana chicks running about on the leaves of water-lilies, young and eggs of the Skimmer, and young Open-billed Storks in the nest.

The Rev. F. R. C. Jourdain sent the following note :—

At the meeting of the B. O. C. on February 9th, Mr. Stuart Baker exhibited a photograph of a Frigate-bird (*Fregata ariel* subsp.?) on behalf of Prof. Menzbier, and stated that it was believed to be the first specimen obtained in the Palæarctic Region. As this statement has now appeared (p. 22), it becomes necessary to record that in January 1792 a Frigate-bird was obtained in Germany, on the Weser, near Munden, and was recorded by Bechstein (Naturgesch. Deutschlands, 2nd ed. iii. p. 756). On this evidence it is figured in the Neuer Naumann xi. pl. 3.

Hartert, in his Vög. pal. Fauna, p. 1408, refers to this and also to a second specimen in Van Kempen's collection at St. Omer, stated to have been obtained near Dunquerque, but without exact date.

Seebohm, in 'The Ibis' for 1884, p. 33, under the name of "*Attagen minor*," records a specimen of the Lesser Frigate-bird in a collection from Hakodadi, Japan, and gives the wing-length as 21 in. This skin is still in the British Museum. In Ogawa's 'List of the Birds of Japan' (1906–08) "*Fregata minor*" and "*F. aquila*" are included, but no details are given.

Uchida's work on the same subject also contains articles in Japanese on both species, and *F. ariel* is figured there. Hachisuka's List (1925) only contains *F. ariel*. The Japanese records were apparently overlooked by Hartert, as they are not referred to in the Vög. d. pal. Fauna.

Mrs. A. Meinertzhagen sent the following description of a new form of Egyptian Plover from Angola :—

Pluvianus ægyptius angolæ, subsp. nov.

Distinguished from *Pluvianus ægyptius ægyptius* by its smaller size.

Wings of eight examined from Angola and Belgian Congo 125–131 mm. ; bill 23–24 mm.

Thirty birds examined from Egypt and the Sudan have wings 132–144 mm., once 130 mm. ; bills 23–27 mm.

Type in the Tring Museum : ♂, Cunga, Quanza River, Angola, 19/5/01. Collected by C. H. Pemberton.

Distribution. Angola and Belgian Congo. Birds from West Africa appear to be intermediate in measurement between *P. æ. ægyptius* and *P. æ. angolæ.*

Material examined. Six from the Quanza River and one from Belgian Congo (Leopoldville).

Measurements of two birds from the Quanza River in the Berlin Museum are also included.

Col. R. Meinertzhagen communicated the description of a new race of Snow-Partridge from Szechwan :—

Lerwa lerwa major, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Lerwa lerwa* of Sikkim and Nepal in size only. Nine adult males from Szechwan have wings 190–203 mm. (usually over 194) and true culmens 25–28 mm. 41 adult males from Sikkim and Nepal have wings 179–194, twice 197, and once 200 mm. (usually under 193) and true culmens 21·5–26 mm.

Type in the British Museum : ♂, Ta-Tsien-Lu, Szechwan, 1890. Reg. No. 96. 1. 1. 490. Collected by A. E. Pratt. Wing 193, culmen 28 mm.

Distribution. Above tree-level in Szechwan and Moupin.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker forwarded the following remarks on Oriental birds and described two new subspecies:—

Polihierax insignis cinereiceps, subsp. nov.

Similar to *P. i. insignis*, but with the back a very much darker blackish-grey, contrasting strongly with the paler whiter head of the male and with the chestnut head of the female. The lower parts are pure white, with no dark streaks on the flanks or breast and the central tail-feathers are unspotted black.

This race has hitherto been considered to be merely the oldest stage of plumage of *P. i. insignis*, but I do not think this is really the case. All these dark birds come from Myawadi or adjoining districts in Tenasserim, while all the paler birds are from north of Tenasserim. There are in the

British Museum two beautiful specimens of what appear to be old males from lower Chindwin, and these, though they approach *cinereiceps* in the pale colour of the head, have the upper parts but little darker than the head itself. Again, the oldest northern Burmese females, so old that the chestnut heads have practically lost all the dark striations, show no approach in depth of colour to two, apparently younger, females from Tenasserim with heavily-striated heads. As regards the central tail-feathers, it must be noted that northern female birds in the first plumage have the central tail-feathers spotted with white just as much, but no more than, the adults ; indeed, the two birds with the most boldly-marked central tail-feathers are an old male and female collected by Fielden near Thayetmyo. It would be curious if of 17 specimens collected in the north all were young, whereas of the five southern birds in the British Museum and the five in Tring all were in the oldest stage.

Colours of soft parts as in the typical race.

Measurements. About the same as the typical form. Wing, ♂ 139–145 mm., ♀ 143–147 mm.

Distribution. So far only known from the Thoungyeen Valley, Myawadi, and adjoining valleys in Tenasserim.

Type in British Museum : ♂, Myawadi, 20. 1. 77. Hume Coll., W. Davison. Reg. No. 85. 8. 19. 2234.

Material examined. P. i. insignis 17 specimens, *P. i. cinereiceps* 5 ♂, 5 ♀.

Cerchneis tinnunculus.

Recently Lord Rothschild has pointed out that the resident Southern Indian Kestrel differs from all other races in certain respects and seems to be a good subspecies. He has not, however, named it, leaving me to do this as soon as I should have reached the genus in the 4th volume of the 'Avifauna of India.' I have now worked through these little Falcons, and agree that the race from south India and Ceylon must be given a name, but, as my conclusions do not quite agree in all respects with those of Lord Rothschild, I give them here in full.

The material in the British and Tring Museums is ample if *number* of specimens only mattered, but, unfortunately, a large number of these specimens have no date whatsoever, and, secondly, of the very large series which have dates the great majority were collected in the winter months when over all northern and much of continental India itself we have a most puzzling mixture of resident birds and migratory forms from Europe and Asia. If we examine Himalayan birds, it is apparent that there are many which cannot be differentiated from the European bird, a great number obviously darker than any specimens from Europe, a few intermediate between these two, and some which seem to be of a still darker race.

Forms, named and unnamed, which we have to consider are as follows :—

(1) C. T. TINNUNCULUS. Sweden.
(2) C. T. JAPONICUS. Japan.
(3) C. T. DORRIESI. Sidimi, E. Siberia.
(4) C. T. SATURATUS. Tenasserim.
(5) C. T. subsp. Southern India.
(6) C. T. INTERSTINCTUS. Assam.

The typical form undoubtedly occurs in India during the winter in the north-west Himalayas, Sind, Punjab, and the United Provinces. There are also quite typical specimens from Belgaum and a single skin from Bihar. Forrest, too, obtained a series from Yunnan, and it has occurred in south China. In the western Himalayas we have a most curious mixture of forms, but the few Museum specimens killed in the breeding-season are *all darkish birds* if compared with European examples, and I have no doubt that our resident Himalayan breeding birds are a darker race than true *tinnunculus*. If so, what are they?

McClelland's type of *interstinctus* from Assam is a very dark bird, darker than *japonicus* from the latter's breeding area and darker than the majority of our dark north-west Himalayan winter birds. This dark specimen is exactly matched by others from Assam, Bhutan, the Duars, and Nepal. Probably these are all birds from low altitudes—

say, up to 6000 or 7000 feet. They are also matched by some from the north-west Himalayas, which include two or three obviously breeding specimens. Birds from Sikkim, so far as represented in the British Museum, are all with one exception of the paler race. It looks therefore as if all the birds breeding at lower levels in the Himalayas must be called *interstinctus* until we have material to show whether the north-west Himalayan birds can be separated from the north-east.

C. t. saturatus, as shown by Lord Rothschild's series and other specimens, is *very* close to *interstinctus*, but the latter has the slate-blue wash on the upper plumage much less pronounced and also the female averages paler. Two or three males of *saturatus* stand out as exceptionally dark, having the back saturated with a slate-blue wash, but others, possibly younger birds, are little if any darker than the Assam birds. For the present this may be accepted as a good race.

C. t. japonicus. Birds from the breeding area are darker than European specimens of *C. t. tinnunculus*, but not so dark as the Assam birds. This race must, I think, be sustained. Its breeding-haunts are eastern Siberia, Manchuria, probably north-east China, and Japan and, I feel sure, the higher levels in the Himalayas from 8000 ft. upwards. In winter this form extends all over south-west China, the Indo-Burmese countries and north and north-east India, but does not seem to occur far south or be common in the western parts.

C. t. dorriesi does not appear to be maintainable with the material so far available, but must be held to be a synonym of *japonicus* rather than *tinnunculus*. At the same time, there are certain very large pale birds (see measurements below) which also have white fringes to many of the feathers of the upper parts and, if it could be proved that these birds have a particular breeding range, they certainly must be considered as another race.

In regard to the southern Indian bird, this at once stands apart from the others, as Rothschild has rightly shown, by its deep brick-red coloration with no tinge of slate. It

is as dark as the Assam bird, but is brighter ; the females, moreover, are richer and redder, less brown in hue. This must be accepted as a good form.

Finally, I am much puzzled by an extremely pale bird found commonly in Sind, the North-West Frontier and the north-west Punjab in winter. These birds are even paler than European examples and very clear and bright in tint. They *may* be merely exceptionally pale specimens of *C. t. tinnunculus*, but they certainly convey the impression of birds from some high desert plateau. These may prove to be yet another recognizable form.

From the above it will be seen that I recognize the following forms as coming into our Indian Avifauna :—

(1) Cerchneis tinnunculus tinnunculus.

Falco tinnunculus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. i. p. 90, 1758.

Type-locality. Sweden.

The palest form recognised.

Distribution. Breeding in Europe, north Africa, north of the Sahara (*Hartert*), and north-west Asia, probably as far as the Yenesei and south to Afghanistan, Persia and, possibly, Gilgit at the greatest elevations.

(2) Cerchneis tinnunculus japonicus.

Falco tinnunculus japonicus Temm. & Schleg. in Siebold's Fauna Jap., Aves, p. 2, pl. i. & i *b*, 1844.

Type-locality. Japan.

A rather darker form than *C. t. tinnunculus*.

Distribution. Breeding in Japan, E. Siberia, Manchuria, northern China, Tibet, Ladak, and N. Kashmir. Wintering over south-west China, the Indo-Chinese countries, and India, where it is confined principally to the Himalayas and the north-east plains, but extending in smaller numbers to Orissa, the Central Provinces, and Bombay Presidency. Should material show that there is a special pale form (? *dorriesi*) breeding in the north-east—say, from Yenesei to the Amur,—*japonicus* will still assuredly be found to be the breeding form in the N. China Hills, through Szechwan to Tibet and further west.

(3) Cerchneis tinnunculus saturatus.

Falco saturatus Blyth, J. A. S. B. xxviii. p. 277, 1859.

Type-locality. Tenasserim.

A very dark bird distinguished from all other races by the intense slate-blue wash on the upper plumage of the male.

Distribution. Resident in Yunnan and Shan States, and either resident in the hills of Tenasserim or wintering there and in other provinces of Burma. A Kestrel is known to breed (*fide* Harington, Cook, and Wickham) in the Kachin Hills and it will probably be found that this form spreads across northern Burma, grading into *interstinctus* in the Chin Hills. The specimens obtained by Harington, now in the Tring Museum, are of this race, but they are winter birds and so do not actually prove what the breeding bird is.

(4) Cerchneis tinnunculus interstinctus.

Tinnunculus interstinctus McClelland, P. Z. S. 1840, p. 154.

Type-locality. Assam.

Nearly as dark a form as *saturatus* but with much less slate tinge on the upper plumage of the male.

Distribution. Breeding in the higher (4000 to 6000 ft.) ranges of Assam and the lower ranges of the Himalayas, Bhutan Hills, Nepal and Garhwal, probably up to 8000 feet, possibly to 10,000 feet and certainly as low as 2000 (*Whistler*). In winter it extends throughout India and Burma.

(5) **Cerchneis tinnunculus objurgatus, subsp. nov.**

This form differs from all the other dark races in the very bright, though deep, brick-red colour of the back of the male and in the dark rich coloration of the female. In both sexes the underparts are a very rich rufous. In no instance has the back of the male any slate wash at all.

Type in British Museum: ♂, immature. Ootacamund, Nilgiris, South India, 6th June, 1867. Hume Coll. Reg. No. 85. 8. 19. 2691.

Distribution. Resident and breeding in Ceylon, Travancore, and the hill-ranges of Mysore and southern India, including the Nellampatty Hills. It is apparently a non-migratory form but, from the present material, it is difficult to say whether its range is the same in summer and winter. This race has long been known to breed at the Gairsoppa Falls and Davidson believed it to nest in the more rugged ravines and ghauts of the N. Kanara District. The measurements of the various forms are given below for easy comparison :—

		Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.
C. t. tinnunculus	♂.	230–259	153–175	17–19
	♀.	243–267	162–175	
C. t. japonicus	♂.	244–259	152–168	17–19
	♀.	243–268	157–166	
C. t. saturatus	♂.	243–256	168–176	17–18
	♀.	253–264	157–175	
C. t. interstinctus	♂.	230–263	145–194	17–18
	♀.	245–264	146–179	
C. t. objurgatus	♂.	225–240	147–159	16–17
	♀.	234–255	155–169	

In addition to the above there are a number of very large birds from different localities, as shown below. They are all pale, mostly with white fringes to the feathers of the upper plumage :—

Place.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.
Nepal	♀.	263	186
Sikkim	♂.	270	185
Yunnan	♀.	274	184
„	♀.	260	188
Assam	♂.	263	184
Manipur	♀.	262	182
Punjab	♀.	265	183
„	♀.	265	183
Yarkand	♀.	262	181
Bagdad	♂.	254	180

Falco severus rufipedoides.

Falco severus rufipedoides Hodgs. Calcutta Journal N. H. iv. p. 284, 1844.

The name *Falco indicus* Meyer & Wig. B. of Celebes, i. p. 84, 1897, is preoccupied by *Falco indicus* of Gmelin, Syst.

Nat. i. p. 264, 1788 = *Butastur indicus*. Hodgson fully described the bird (*in loc. cit.*) under the name *Falco rufipedoides*, and this name is actually quoted by Meyer and Wiglesworth as a synonym of *F. severus*, though Hodgson states how it differs from that bird. Although no locality is given by Hodgson, it may be taken as India, since he is writing on "Indian Falcons." He further states that structurally it is a *subbuteo*. As the description is evidently taken from birds obtained by himself, the type-locality may be restricted to Nepal. The name *rufipedoides* was communicated in an unsigned letter to the Calcutta Journal, which was merely said to be "from a correspondent"; but that it was by Hodgson is proved by the fact that in the Hodgson drawings in the British Museum an illustration of this Falcon bears the name "*Falco rufipedoides* nobis" in his own handwriting.

Genus Nyctiornis.

The name *Nyctiornis*, which has always been used for a genus of Oriental Bearded Bee-eaters, cannot be used, as it is preoccupied by *Nyctornis* Nitzsch, Obs. de Av. Ar. Carot. Com. p. 15, 1829, "*Nyctornis* N. = *Caprimulgus grandis*."

There is, however, a name available, *Bucia* of Hodgson, Journal As. Soc. Bengal, v. p. 360, 1836, which says = *Nyctiornis*. Type *Nyctiornis athertoni*. The name *Bucia* must therefore take the place of *Nyctiornis*.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst forwarded the following communication :—

Some time ago (Journ. B. N. H. S. xxxi. No. 2) I pointed out that the *Culicicapa* from Northern India was not the same as the Ceylon bird, but thinking it had already got a name I never described it. I now propose to name it

Culicicapa ceylonensis pallidior, subsp. nov.

Description. Head and throat paler grey ; mantle brighter yellower green, not so dark green ; underparts paler yellow, less washed with olivaceous, compared with *Culicicapa ceylonensis ceylonensis*.

Type. In Brit. Mus. Simla, 1st Oct., 1880. Collected by W. Davison. No. 86. 4. 1. 3089.

Distribution. N. W. F. P.; Cashmere; N.W. Himalayas; Nepal; Sikkim. In winter plains of Punjab, United Provinces, Bombay Presidency, Central Provinces.

Material examined. 60 from the above area; 12 of the typical race from Ceylon and the Nilgiris.

Obs. This race has, by older authors, been alluded to as *Cryptolopha cinereocapilla* (Vieillot), but it appears that Vieillot never gave the specific name, and as it has so often been considered as synonymous with *Culicicapa ceylonensis* by Blyth, Horsfield, Jerdon, etc., I do not think it can be used for any other race.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, April 6th, 1927, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS., for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

N.B.—Owing to Easter, the date of the Dinner in April will be on the 6th instead of the 13th.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

Bird Room

BULLETIN

BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY Z D

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCXIV.

The three-hundred-and-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, April 6th, 1927.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—H. G. Alexander; F. J. F. Barrington; S. Boorman; A. L. Butler; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke; Major S. S. Flower; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); J. Spedan Lewis; N. S. Lucas; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; Mrs. R. Meinertzhagen; C. Oldham; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; G. H. R. Pye-Smith; W. G. Stuart-Menteth; W. L. Sclater; A. Landsborough Thomson; Hugh Whistler.

Guests:—W. B. Alexander; Capt. F. Kingdon-Ward; Major Pye-Smith.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear exhibited three birds obtained by Capt. F. Kingdon-Ward during June 1926, in the Seinghku Valley, N. Burma, lat. 28° 8′ N., 97° 20′ E., which included a Blood Pheasant (*Ithaginis cruentatus kuseri*), a Babbler

(*Trochalopterum affinis affinis*), and a very distinct new species of Trogon, which he proposed to call

Pyrotrogon wardi, sp. n.

Description. Head, neck, and back dark olive, lighter on the rump; lores orange-yellow; primaries black with a narrow white border on the outer webs of the second to the seventh; wing-coverts brown freckled with black; middle pair of tail-feathers bronze-brown, the next two pairs black with a bronze tinge towards the tip, and the remaining three outer pairs black at the base and for two-thirds of the inner and about half the outer web, remainder golden-yellow, brightest on the outer web and becoming white towards the tip. Below, throat and breast olive-brown, tinged with yellow; belly, vent, under tail-coverts bright orange-yellow.

Measurements. Wing 175 mm., tail 228, tarsus 17, exposed culmen 18.

Type in the British Museum: (♀?) Seinghku Valley, N. Burma, 8000 feet, lat. 28° 8′ N., long. 97° 20′ E., 29th October, 1926. British Museum No. 1927. 2. 16. 5.

Observations. Only a single example of this remarkable Trogon, which was shot by a native with a cross-bow, was obtained by Mr. Kingdon-Ward.

The specimen was too much damaged to make out the sex, but from the coloration it is probably a female.

It is quite distinct from any other known *Trogon*, and has a very long tail in comparison with other members of the genus.

Mr. Kinnear made the following additional remarks:—

In the 'Birds of British Guiana' the late Mr. Chubb included under *Picumnus macconnelli* two specimens from the Takatu River and Upper Takatu Mts. which obviously do not belong to that species, and I therefore propose to call them

Picumnus cirrhatus confusus, subsp. nov.

Male. Differs from *P. c. cirrhatus* in the colour of the upperside, which is greyish-brown without any yellowish

tinge. Below, these two forms are identical. From *P. macconnelli* the present bird is distinguished by the greyer, less dark back, and on the under surface by the white ground-colour barred with black instead of black barred with white.

Type in the British Museum: ♂, Takatu River, British Guiana, 1907, McConnell Collection. British Museum No. 1922. 3. 5. 1832.

Specimens examined. The type and a ♂ from the Upper Takatu Mts. (1908).

Observation. Both these two specimens were obtained by native collectors in the employ of Mr. McConnell.

Picumnus macconnelli was described by Sharpe in 1901 from a specimen in Mr. McConnell's collection. There is no locality on the label, and the skin was apparently bought by Mr. McConnell along with a number of others from a dealer.

As several of these skins are of species which do not occur in British Guiana, the type-locality of *P. macconnelli* is open to doubt.

Unfortunately, Chubb, in describing *P. macconnelli* in the 'Birds of British Guiana,' did not base his description on the type, but on the bird now described as *P. c. confusus*, and added to this the plate, though apparently taken from the type, has been reproduced with the colour of the back as in the typical form of *P. c. cirrhatus*.

In the series of *P. c. cirrhatus* in the British Museum there are two skins from Cayenne—one ex Eyton collection and the other purchased from H. Whitely, the dealer,—while a third from the same source is marked "New Granada." None of these birds have original labels and all came to the Museum in the Hargitt Collection.

Results of further Experiments from Internal Illumination of Eggs, and Remarks on their Markings.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard illuminated a number of eggs internally by means of a tiny electric-light bulb, and made the following remarks:—

When exhibiting a clutch of marked Goshawks' eggs at the November meeting, I made a few casual remarks on

the so-called pigmentation of eggs, based on a paper by Dr. Embleton, which appeared in the Nat. Hist. Trans. of the Northumberland and Durham Naturalists' Club in 1878. This paper appears to have been overlooked by oologists until recently, and to my mind is by far the most important communication which has been written on this interesting subject.

The statement I made, and which I am glad to know has caused some interest among oologists, was that all markings on eggs are composed of, and caused by, nothing but blood. Dr. Embleton, on p. 68 in the paper referred to above, states:—

"The colours of the shells of eggs are not found to be different from those which are produced by the blood of mammals *and birds*, when it has been effused among the living tissues of these creatures, in consequence of a blow having contused the skin and subjacent parts, and ruptured their blood-vessels. Such blood during its gradual disappearance by absorption gives rise to all the graduations of colour in the solar spectrum. Even in the interior of the human body, in the brain itself, similar changes and shades of colour may be observed after death around an old hæmorrhagic clot that has for months, or even years, been undergoing a gradual process of absorption."

Further on, Dr. Embleton refers to a statement made by F. A. L. Thienemann in his work entitled 'Systematische Darstellung der Fortpflanzung der Vögel Europas, mit Abbildung der Eier,' 1825–38.

Thienemann's remarks, on p. 11 of the above work, are as follows:—

"The colouring of eggs goes on during the formation of the calcareous shell, and this in two ways. Either the whole shell is mixed throughout with colouring matters, and these are greenish, or yellowish, or brownish, or, through the pressure of the eggs on the swollen blood-vessels of the oviduct, the pent up blood becomes discharged mechanically, sinks in more or less upon the soft or hardening shell-mass, and gives the streaks or spots."

I am convinced that this century-old theory of Thienemann and Embleton, upon which my experiments are based, is correct, and, as the latter says, "no pigment glands have ever been described as existing in the oviduct." His arguments in support of the blood theory are obviously based on the examination of a large amount of material, but he does not appear to have gone very deeply into the experimental side of the question, for the simple reason that he probably found a superficial examination sufficiently convincing. Experiments are interesting, but I do not agree that they are necessary.

The object of my demonstration by internal illumination is to endeavour to show that all markings on eggs are of the same colour and constituency, no matter what colour they appear to be, from a superficial examination.

The greys, mauves, and purplish markings are the same colour as the the superimposed markings, the difference in appearance being caused by the thin film of calcareous matter with which they are covered.

I am glad to say that it has been possible to greatly improve on my original experiment with the Puffins' eggs. It was then necessary to drill holes of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter in order to insert the electric bulb.

The illuminating attachment I am using this evening is well known in the medical profession, and, as the bulb is only $5{\cdot}0 \times 3{\cdot}0$ mm., it is no longer necessary to enlarge the blow-holes except in very small eggs.

For the purpose of this demonstration I have divided the eggs for illumination under three headings :—

(1) Eggs on which the whole of the markings are found on the mammillæ, or layer 1—*i. e.*, shell-marks of grey, mauve, etc.

(2) Eggs on which the markings are found on the coherent, or layer 2—*i. e.*, shell-marks of darker shades of grey, mauve, etc.

(3) Eggs on which the markings are found on the upper membrane, layer 3—*i. e.*, conspicuous, surface, or superimposed.

In a single clutch of some species it is possible to find eggs representing all the above forms.

Results of illuminating certain Eggs.

Guillemot. These exhibited the most remarkable results, their beauty being increased a hundredfold. Two veined eggs with a blue ground were evidently marked with some oily substance, and reminded one of the water-marks in paper.

Razorbill. Though not so beautiful as the former, they they were none the less interesting. A purplish-grey egg had the characteristics entirely altered, and large conspicuous markings were revealed. An almost pure white egg showed a beautiful shade of green, with pale brown markings.

Albatros. A slightly marked egg proved to be evenly marked with spots and short veins of pale reddish-brown.

Puffin. An almost unmarked egg showed conspicuous zone of short vein-marks.

Noddy Tern. An egg with underlying markings proved to be evenly and heavily marked.

Herring-Gull. In erythristic examples of this species and the Lapwing, the red colour disappeared almost entirely.

Black-headed Gull. Blue eggs with practically no markings were as heavily marked as the normal eggs in the same clutch.

Stone-Curlew. An egg with a greenish ground became greener and exhibited a fracture, which had calloused and repaired itself in the oviduct. A clutch of two eggs, which differed considerably, appeared the same.

Spotted Redshank. An egg with a greenish ground appeared beautifully green and heavily marked.

Red Grouse. This showed that the markings on game-bird eggs are entirely superimposed.

Pheasant. A brown egg appeared greenish, while the brown egg of the Jacana gave similar results with a dark green cap. The thin layer of brown colour on Gulls', Pheasants' eggs, etc., is mixed and deposited with the glutinous or uppermost layer.

Red Grouse, Lapwing. These two eggs, with conspicuous unmarked zones, showed no markings on these parts, the blood not being absorbed owing to the excessive hardness of the shell.

Lesser Spotted Eagle. A very beautiful egg, with greyish underlying marks, proved to be heavily marked rich reddish-brown.

Greater Spotted Eagle. A poor-looking egg appeared to be heavily marked. A similar egg of the Golden Eagle showed the same result.

Egpytian Vulture. These appeared even more beautiful than those of the Guillemots'. The rich blood-markings of the eggs of the Accipitres, surpassing in richness anything previously seen, proved that some of the most conspicuous markings were on the mammillæ-layer.

Osprey. Showed much the same results as the former.

Sparrow-Hawk. A heavily-marked egg proved the marks were all superimposed, while a bluish egg with purplish-grey markings appeared richly and heavily marked with reddish-brown.

Song-Thrush. The beautiful blue almost entirely disappeared.

Barred Warbler. A typical and an erythristic egg were heavily marked, the marking on these eggs is very rarely superimposed.

Bearded Titmouse. Lechner was unable to find the grey or greyish-red speckles mentioned by Thienemann *. Illumination confirmed this—*i. e.*, they were not present.

Cuckoo. A greenish-grey egg exhibited markings all of the same shade.

The normal characteristics of many eggs disappeared almost entirely when illuminated, the markings, however, according to density, were all of the same colour, ranging from brownish-black to bright reddish, and markings completely obscured were not only revealed but proved to be of the same colour.

* 'Oologia Neerlandica,' vol. i.

Mr. W. L. Sclater communicated the following notes on African birds :—

On the Genus *Calamocichla*.

The genus *Calamocichla* was first proposed by Sharpe in 1883 (Cat. Bds. vii. p. 131) for two species of Swamp-Warblers, *Calamoherpe newtoni* Hartl. and *Calamodytà brevipennis* Keulemans, from Madagascar and the Cape Verde Islands respectively. No type was designated. In 1896 Shelley (Bds. Afr. i. p. 79) definitely designated the Madagascar bird, *C. newtoni*, the type.

In 1908 Neumann (Nov. Zool. xv. p. 244) revised the genus, several other species having been in the meantime added to it. He, however, believing that such was Sharpe's intention, made *C. brevipennis* the type of the genus and proposed for the Madagascar bird, which obviously is not congeneric, a new generic name—*Hemiellesia*. His action, though possibly dictated by what the original describer intended, is obviously not justified according to the International Code of Nomenclature, and the genus *Calamocichla* must be restricted to the Madagascan *C. newtoni*.

It appears to be necessary, therefore, to give a new generic name to the African Swamp-Warblers formerly placed in *Calamocichla*, and I propose for this group the name

Calamornis, gen. nov.,

with type *Calamodyta brevipennis* Keulemans.

In Colonel Stephenson Clarke's collection, recently presented to the British Museum, I find a single example of this genus which notably exceeds in size any of the other species yet described. I propose to call it

Calamornis foxi, sp. n.

Description. Closely resembling *C. ansorgei* in general appearance, but very much larger, the wing measuring 85 against 80 mm. in the latter ; the wing is also more pointed in the Angola bird, the second primary (from outside) is as long as the secondaries, while in *C. ansorgei* it is distinctly shorter ; the fourth, fifth, and sixth are about equal and

longest. "Iris pale brown, upper mandible brownish-black, inside of mouth brownish-grey, feet grey."

Measurements. Wing 85 mm., tail 85, culmen 18, tarsus (broken) c. 31, hind claw 11.

Type. A male collected by Mr. T. V. Fox at Lake Maraye in Kigezi District, S. W. Uganda, on 8 January, 1911, and presented to the British Museum by Colonel Stephenson Clarke. B.M. Reg. No. 1923. 8. 7. 3282.

Obs. Only a single adult example is available. A second specimen from the same place, but obtained previously on 4 Dec., 1910, is smaller (wing 75), and is in the rufous plumage which in this genus appears to be characteristic of the young bird ; it is sexed male. It closely resembles in every way two specimens in the juvenile rufous plumage from Fort Beni in the Semliki valley and from the Mubuku valley, E. Ruwenzori, referred by Ogilvie-Grant to *C. nilotica*. As the species of this genus are not well known and material is very scarce, I have considered it advisable to name the new form binominally, but it certainly appears to belong to the *ansorgei* group.

Cinnyris oseus decorsei.

Through the courtesy of M. J. Berlioz of the Paris Museum I have been privileged to examine the type of *Cinnyris decorsei,* described by Oustalet (Bull. Mus. Paris, x. p. 536, 1904) from the Lake Chad region, and I find, as I had previously suspected, that it is undoubtedly identical with *Cinnyris osea butleri* W. Scl. and Praed ('Ibis,' 1918, p. 619) from Kajo Kaji in the Lado district of the Upper White Nile, and which has also been obtained by Admiral Lynes in Darfur, where he found it to be a "common winter breeding visitor on the heights of Jebel Marra." This Sun-bird must therefore be known in future as *Cinnyris oseus decorsei* Oustalet.

Elminia schwebischi.

At the same time M. Berlioz was kind enough to send me the type of *Elminia schwebischi* Oustalet (N. Arch. Mus. Paris, (3) iv. p. 216, 1892), obtained at Franceville in French

Congo. As I had anticipated, this proved to be identical with *Erannornis* (formerly called *Elminia*) *longicauda teresita* (Antin.), which ranges from the Upper White Nile and Bahr el Ghazel west to Cameroon and south to Uganda and the Semliki Valley, and is now proved to extend to southern French Congo.

ESTRILDA XANTHOPHRYS.

Last year (Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. xlvii. p. 32) I described as new a little Waxbill under this name, a pair of which were presented to the British Museum by M. Delacour, who had them alive from a dealer at Marseilles, and it was supposed they had come from Senegal. Subsequently, I was informed that Mr. H. Whitley also had some of the same birds alive in captivity, and a female which died in his aviaries was sent to the Museum and found to be identical with the original *E. xanthophrys*. Mr. Whitley informed Mr. Kinnear that these Waxbills formed part of a consignment brought to England last year by young Rogers, the son of the well-known dealer in Liverpool, and that the birds all came from Abyssinia.

The true locality of *Estrilda xanthophrys* is therefore Abyssinia, and it should probably be considered merely as a subspecies of *Estrilda troglodytes* (*E. cinerea* auct.), which has a wide distribution from Senegal to the Nile Valley, with an orange instead of a yellow face-streak.

Mr. GREGORY M. MATHEWS sent the following :—

The genus OREICOLA Bonaparte, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, vol. xxxviii. p. 6, Jan. 2nd, 1854—type (by subsequent designation, Gray, 1855, p. 143), *Saxicola pyrrhonota* Müll.,—will replace ERYTHROMYIAS Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. iv. p. 199, March 26th, 1879. Type, *Saxicola dumetoria* Wallace, with the species

Oreicola dumetoria (Wallace),
Oreicola muelleri (Blyth),
Oreicola pyrrhonota (Müll.),
Oreicola buruensis (Hart.).

The genus *Oreicola* of the Cat. Birds, vol. iv. p. 263, must be called *Rhodophila* Jerdon, Birds of India, vol. ii. pt. 1, p. 128, 1863. Type (by monotypy), *R. melanoleuca* Jerdon = *Oreicola jerdoni* Blyth, with the species

Rhodophila jerdoni (Blyth),
Rhodophila melanoleuca Vieillot, which equals
Rhodophila gutturalis Vieillot,
Rhodophila ferrea (Gray).

Mr. H. C. Robinson sent the following

Note on *Phodilus* Less.

The Malayan form of *Phodilus badius* (Horsf.), of which the typical locality is Java, has recently been described by Oberholser (Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci. xiv. 1824, p. 302) from a single unsexed specimen as *Phodilus badius abbotti*.

I have compared three birds from Java with a series from the Malay Peninsula, and, allowing for the greater age of the Java skins, can detect no difference in coloration.

Birds from Borneo (ten specimens examined) are perhaps rather paler with a tendency to greater spotting above.

There is no available material from Sumatra, but a single bird from Billiton (in partial moult, however) is very small.

When we come to Indian birds, currently called *P. b. nipalensis* (Gray, Hand-list, i. p. 53), we find that this name is not available, in that it is a *nomen nudum*, and is also, as pointed out by Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. ii. 1875, p. 309, footnote, based on a specimen of *Otus spilocephalus* (Blyth).

Sikkim and Darjiling birds can, however, easily be separated from the Malayan birds, and may be recorded as

Phodilus badius saturatus, nom. nov.

Deeper and more richly coloured above than the typical form, especially on the head. Size decidedly larger. Wing of type 231 mm.

Type adult (probably female). Native Sikkim, Jan. 1874. Mandelli. B.M. Reg. No. 1886. 2. 1. 1123.

The races therefore are :

1. *Phodilus badius badius* (Horsf.).

Java : Wing 186–196 mm. (3 spms.).
Borneo : Wing 181–191 mm. (10 spms.).
Malay Peninsula : Wing 191–202 mm. (9 spms.).
Billiton : Wing 171 mm. (1 spm.).

2. *Phodilus badius saturatus*, supra.

Native Sikkim and Darjiling : Wing 216–231 mm. (7 spms.).
Buxa Duars : Wing 227 mm. (1 spm.).
Assam and Cachar : Wing 212–213 mm. (2 spms.).

Birds from Burma, as might be expected, are intermediate.

Karin Hills : Wing 194–204 mm. (2 spms.).
Tonghoo : Wing 213 mm. (1 spm.).

3. *Phodilus badius assimilis* Hume.

Darker, more chestnut-brown and less bay, patch on the outer under wing-coverts, blackish brown not chestnut-bay.
Ceylon : Wing 197–204 mm. (4 spms.).

NOTICES.

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BRITISH MUSEUM
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NATURAL HISTORY

Bird Room.

BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY
ZOOLOGY
11 JUN 1927
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCXV.

The three-hundred-and-tenth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, May 11th, 1927.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Sir Percy Cox; J. Cunningham; Major S. S. Flower; G. H. Gurney; Rev. J. R. Hale; R. E. Heath; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe; N. S. Lucas; Lt.-Col. H. A. Magrath; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; Mrs. Meinertzhagen; T. H. Newman; C. B. Rickett; H. C. Robinson; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; L. J. Turtle; Dr. Casey A. Wood.

Guests:—F. W. Baily; P. W. T. Boughton-Leigh; Capt. J. E. S. Flower; Dr. C. W. Townsend; D. E. Ward.

Mr. C. H. B. Grant communicated the following remarks on certain birds in Tanganyika Colony :—

Among the specimens I have obtained for the British Museum within recent years is a pair of *Hirundo angolensis angolensis* Bocage (type-loc., Huilla), taken at Kasulu in Kigoma Province, Tanganyika Territory, on the 3rd February, 1924.

As regards Kasulu, this Swallow arrives about November and after breeding, sometimes rearing two broods, it departs whence it came about May. Numbers arrive together, but after a day or so they all depart, with the exception of two or three pairs which nest in the Boma, the nest being similar to that of Smith's Swallow (*Hirundo smithi*). I am of opinion that this Swallow is a nesting migrant only to Tanganyika Territory and returns to the Belgian Congo or Angola for the rest of the year. Reichenow records it from Rungwe District, but we have no record of it between this locality and Kasulu, and I know it does not occur in the towns of Kigoma or Ujiji, nor have I seen it at any of the railway-stations between Kigoma and Malagarasi.

Larus cirrhocephalus Vieillot (type-loc., Brazil) is also a migrant to Lake Tanganyika, at least so far as the 130 miles of lake-shore of Kigoma District is concerned, and observations show that it arrives in October and departs in May.

Immature birds, obviously birds of the year, are noticeable when this Gull arrives in October, but I have not seen, or heard of, a breeding-ground on the east side of the lake. Dwight ("Laridæ," Bull. Amer. Mus. vol. lii. p. 272) mentions Lake Tanganyika as one of its breeding-grounds, but it would be interesting to learn on what data this information is based.

Mr. H. C. Robinson exhibited and described the following new Owl from Sumatra :—

Athenoptera spilocephalus stresemanni, subsp. nov.

Pisorhina luciæ Robinson & Kloss, Journ. Fed. Malay States, vii. (2) 1918, p. 126.

Otus spilocephalus luciæ (partim) Stresemann, Mittheil. Zool. Mus. Berlin, xii. 1, 1925, p. 192.

♀. More uniform above and less of a rufous tinge than either *A. s. vulpes* from the southern Malay Peninsula or *A. s. siamensis* from Peninsular Siam. Much paler and less marked than *A. s. luciæ* from Kinabalu and Dulit, N. Borneo. Cervical collar almost obsolete, indicated merely by slight broadening of the white shaft-stripes, with which the upper surface is sparsely flecked, these stripes being bordered by black. Forehead pale pinky-buff, lighter than in the other races. Lower breast lightly vermiculated with black, many of the feathers with ill-defined whitish and blackish-brown shaft-stripes. Total length 190 ; wing 138 ; tail 70 ; tarsus 26·5 ; bill from gape 20·5 mm. (measured in the flesh).

Type (and only specimen examined in the British Museum), adult female, Scolah Dras, Korinchi, West Sumatra, 3000 ft. Collected by H. C. Robinson and C. B. Kloss, March 18th, 1914. B.M. Reg. No. 1920. 6. 29. 90.

Compared with the type of *A. s. siamensis,* the type and four others of *A. s. vulpes*, and five specimens of *A. s. luciæ* from Kinabalu and Dulit, Borneo.

Remarks. I have followed Dr. Stresemann in regarding these insular forms as subspecies of *A. spilocephalus* of the Himalayas, with which, however, *A. hambroeckii* (Swinh.) from Formosa and *A. latouchii* (Rickett) from China and the Tenasserim-Siam border as well *A. vanderwateri*, also from W. Sumatra, are not in my opinion very closely connected. Sharpe's genus, *Heteroscops*, typified by *A. luciæ*, may fairly be resuscitated for these small Owls ; the name is, however, antedated by *Athenoptera* Hutton, in Hume's 'Rough Notes Indian Ornithology,' pt. i. No. 2, 1870, p. 392. Type, *Ephialtes spilocephalus huttoni* Hume.

Messrs. N. B. Kinnear and H. C. Robinson made the following communication :—

We owe to the kindness of Dr. F. W. Thomas, Librarian to the Indian Office, the opportunity of examining in detail a volume of coloured drawings of Sumatran birds made

under the superintendence of Sir Stamford Raffles, while Lieutenant-Governor of Fort Marlborough, Sumatra.

The drawings were forwarded to Europe about June 1820, or rather earlier, together with a collection of birds and mammals, and thus escaped the destruction that involved the bulk of Sir Stamford Raffles's collection when the Indiaman 'Fame' was burnt off the coast of Sumatra.

These drawings and the skins accompanying them formed the basis of Raffles's 'Descriptive Catalogue of a Zoological Collection made on the Island of Sumatra and its Vicinity,' dated Fort Marlborough, June 1820. This was read before the Linnean Society on March 20th, 1821, and published in vol. xiii. of the 'Transactions,' pp. 277–342, between March and May 1822.

The collections were probably made in part by Dr. Arnold, famous as the discoverer of *Rafflesia arnoldi* Brown, the largest (or almost the largest) known flower, who died in Sumatra in July 1818, and in part by Diard and Duvaucel, two French naturalists on the staff of Sir Stamford Raffles, but with whom misunderstandings arose after they had been in Sumatra but little more than a year, to which fact was due the early publication of this paper by Sir Stamford Raffles himself.

After the destruction of the 'Fame,' Sir Stamford caused further collections to be made, which he brought home with him. These collections were presented to the Zoological Society of London by Lady Raffles on April 24th, 1827, after her husband's death. An account of this final collection (by N. H. Vigors) is contained in the Appendix, "Memoir of Sir Stamford Raffles," London, 1830. This paper contains descriptions of a few species not contained in the earlier collections. On the dispersal of the Society's Museum in 1855, many of the specimens passed by purchase to the British Museum, but some cannot now be traced.

The drawings are for the most part excellent and faithful to their subjects, though a certain number are incomplete, iris, bill, and feet remaining to be coloured. They were

probably executed by a Javanese draughtsman and in practically all cases the species can be recognized at a glance.

Many of them have undoubted claims to be recognized as the actual types of Raffles's descriptions, certainly so in the cases in which no skins were received with the drawings.

With the exception of two, a Tern (*Clitonias* sp., immature) and a *Caprimulgus*, all the drawings, 128, have been identified or admit of identification. For the most part they have been correctly listed in Horsfield and Moore's 'Catalogue of Birds in the Museum of the East Indian Company,' vols. i.–ii. 1856, 1858, but a few of the drawings, unaccompanied by specimens, are not referred to by those authors. Of three of these we are now able to supply identifications, viz. :—

(1) *Lanius divaricatus* Raffles, *tom. cit.* p. 306. India Office drawing, 598.

This is an immature female in moult of *Pericrocotus cinereus* Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool. viii. 1845, p. 94 (Luzon, Philippines).

Raffles's name has priority and this well-known Minivet therefore becomes

PERICROCOTUS DIVARICATUS (Raffles),

the type being the above-mentioned drawing at present in the India Office Library.

(2) *Turdus ambiguus* Raffles, *tom. cit.* p. 311. India Office drawing, 616.

This drawing is taken from a somewhat immature specimen of the Tit described as

Parus cinereus malayorum Robinson & Kloss, Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus. viii. (2) 1918, p. 227 (Korinchi, W. Sumatra), which now becomes

PARUS CINEREUS AMBIGUUS (Raffles),

with the above-mentioned drawing as type.

(3) *Ardea picta* Raffles, *tom. cit.* p. 326. India Office drawing, 651.

This is the young stage (in dark plumage) of *Ardea melanolopha* Raffles, described on the same page, but of which neither specimen nor drawing is, so far as we can discover, extant. = *Gorsachius goisagi melanolophus* (Raffles).

It should be added that the whole collection bears evidence that it was entirely collected at low altitudes, as no single species confined to an elevation of 3000 feet or over is comprised in it. Except, therefore, where there is definite evidence to the contrary, as in the case of *Sterna sumatrana* Raffles, which was collected at Acheen, the type-localities of all Raffles's species may be taken as the neighbourhood of Bencoolen, W. Sumatra.

Lord Rothschild exhibited a skin of the Western Carolina Parrot (*Conuropsis carolinensis interior* O. Bangs) and a skin of the typical Carolina Parrot (*C. carolinensis carolinensis* (Linn.), for comparison. He remarked that this was the sole example in Europe and that now both races of the Carolina Parrot were extinct. *C. c. interior* differs from *C. c. carolinensis* in having a larger bill, longer wing, and in the yellow of the head and neck being much paler. The green of most parts of the plumage is also much bluer, verdigris-green as opposed to bright apple-green. *C. c. interior* was spread over a large part of the Central and Western areas of the United States, whereas *C. c. carolinensis* was confined to the southern half of the Atlantic coastal states—most examples in collections being from Florida.

Birds observed on a Voyage to Senegal.

Mr. David Bannerman gave an account of his recent voyage from Marseilles to Senegal and back, *viâ* Tangier, Casablanca, and Grand Canary, and of the birds he met with *en route*.

Leaving Marseilles on 14th Feb., the Straits were passed on the night of the 16th, and the following day a few Shearwaters were noted, which from their decidedly dusky flanks

and under surface he believed to be *Puffinus puffinus mauretanicus* Lowe.

No Passerine birds were encountered on the outward voyage. Between Mazagan and Mogador, on Feb. 18th, the ship passed through a huge gathering of Gannets about 10 miles from the coast, and nearing Cape Jaby a single Kittiwake was noted in company with many *Larus atlantis*. Twenty-four hours' steam from Cape Verde, on Feb. 21st, over fifty Pomatorhine Skuas (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) joined the ship, remaining all day—only a very small percentage in the uniform brown plumage. When settled on the water the barred flanks and under tail-coverts of the light-plumaged birds showed very conspicuously. In flight they were easily recognised by the twisted tail and the collar and yellow cheeks, for, unlike the Gulls, the Skuas flew backwards and forwards close along the sides of the ship, not following in its wake as were hundreds of very small Petrels not certainly identified. Flocks of small grey Waders were passing north all that day, but none sufficiently close to be certain of the species.

The return voyage was uneventful until Gibraltar had been passed. In the Straits, on April 12th, flocks of *Puffinus puffinus yelkouan* were seen passing westwards—their pure white breasts in contrast to those of the Shearwaters seen near Tangier on the outward voyage. That same night the ship encountered the severe cyclone which did so much damage on land and sea in the Western Mediterranean—the wind was at gale force and the following two days numerous weary migrants alighted on the ship (Warblers, Song-Thrushes, Larks, Pipits, and Swallows), hunting diligently amongst the banana-crates piled on deck for any insects which they might harbour. On the 14th a Woodchat, identified as the typical form, came aboard between Majorca and Barcelona. Marseilles was reached on April 15th.

Note on the Exportation of Live Birds from Senegal.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Bannerman drew

attention to the very unsatisfactory methods employed in the export trade of small brightly-coloured Weavers and other birds from Senegal for sale in Europe. Hundreds of these birds were shipped at Dakar on the liner in which he travelled to Marseilles, and the condition of these birds called forth protests from every humane passenger on board. The birds were crammed into long cages or wooden crates with wire fronting some 4 ft. × 2 × 1½ in size, over a hundred in each cage—the floor-space and inadequate perches filled to overflowing with fluttering birds struggling to gain a foothold. These birds, mostly the commoner small Weavers, were all freshly netted wild birds, and their fruitless efforts to gain their liberty added to the heavy mortality which must have taken place. The whole enormous consignment was in charge of one native boy sent from Dakar. The crates were piled on the aft hatch under a tarpaulin which had to be removed in port, and the conditions of feeding, watering, and protection from the weather left much to be desired. Particularly distressing was the case of a Woolly-necked Stork confined in a small wooden box without room to stretch up its neck.

Mr. Bannerman spoke very strongly on this unnecessary cruelty entailed. He said he was far from wishing the export of foreign birds prohibited, but he pleaded for a much more rigorous control of the manner in which our foreign cage-birds reached Europe.

A discussion followed and Major Flower, late Director of the Giza Gardens, Egypt, Dr. Casey Wood of the U.S.A., Mr. Gerard Gurney, a well-known aviculturist, and others spoke of similar experiences, and urged that steps should be taken to mitigate this state of affairs.

It was agreed that Mr. Bannerman should be asked to report to the International Committee for the Protection of Birds, who would, it was hoped, take the matter up.

Notes on a Visit to Grenoble Museum.

Mr. Bannerman went on to describe his recent visit to the Grenoble Museum of Natural History, of which he gave

an interesting account. The galleries, he said, were admiably arranged and the mounted specimens well cared for. Of particular interest to visitors was the room given over to the Fauna of Dauphiné—the Department in which Grenoble is situated; the instructive labels for the public accompanying the mounted specimens were a model of what such notices should be, and the arrangement brought great credit to the Director—M. Giraud. The collection is rich in local specimens of the Bearded Vulture, which is now excessively rare in the mountains of Dauphiné. Another room is given over to M. Lavauden's private collection—all mounted. Included in this were the type and three other examples of *Falco peregrinus blancheti*, also the type of *Saxicola torquata defontanesii*, and a remarkable aberrant *Gypaëtus barbatus grandis*, shot in Sardinia—the usually yellowish underparts being almost white.

Mr. Bannerman deplored the mounting of types, and hoped the practice would be discontinued in France.

The White-breasted Barn-Owl in the Canaries.

Mr. Bannerman exhibited the first authentic specimen of a Barn-Owl from Grand Canary. The mummified body was seen hanging in a tree near Telde by Mr. Gerard Gurney, who secured it. As suspected, this Owl proves to be *Tyto alba alba*, similar to the Barn-Owl of Tenerife, and not *T. a. gracilirostris*, the form in the eastern islands of the Archipelago.

Remarks on the Eggs of Irby's Raven.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited three clutches of eggs of the Moorish or Irby's Raven (*Corvus corax tingitanus*)—one of six eggs, one of seven, and one of eight. They showed considerable variation in colouring, the seven clutch, taken last year in Algeria, being of the pale blue type, while the eight clutch, from the province of Oran, W. Algeria, was heavily marked on a green ground. The

last-mentioned nest was found with seven eggs on April 17th, 1927, and on returning to the site next day eight eggs were found in the nest. The Ravens seem to form an exception to the rule that in the high north the number of eggs in the clutch is larger than in the south, for there is little difference between the average size of the clutch, whether laid in Greenland or Iceland or in the Mediterranean region. There is, however, a great difference in size between northern and southern eggs, and the eggs of *C. corax ruficollis* are no larger than those of *Corvus corone* in many cases.

Note on a Hybrid Humming-Bird.

Mr. A. L. Butler exhibited a Humming-bird which he considered to be a hybrid between two Brazilian species, *Thalurania glaucopis* (Gm.) and *T. eriphyle* (Less.), the specimen showing a curious combination of the colouring of both these presumed parents, adult males of which were shown for comparison.

In the hybrid (?) the crown is violet as in *T. glaucopis*, but shows two irregular patches of the brilliant green of the crown of *T. eriphyle* ; the parts of the under surface, which are green in *T. glaucopis* and blue in *T. eriphyle*, are of a distinctly bluish-green ; there are distinct scapular patches of a greenish Prussian blue (the absence of shoulder-patches being a character of *T. glaucopis*) ; the under tail-coverts are as in *T. eriphyle*, the longer ones blackish edged with white near the base, instead of being entirely green as in *T. glaucopis*.

The range of *T. glaucopis* in Brazil is more western than that of *T. eriphyle*, but both species occur in the states of Bahia, Minas, Rio, and S. Paulo.

The bird exhibited came from a collection formed by the late Senhor Monteiro of Lisbon and was without locality, but the skin appeared to be of Bahia make.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club, the last of the Session, will be held on Wednesday, June 8th, 1927, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS., for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

11 JUN 1927
PURCHASED

Bird Room.

20 JUL 1927
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH MUSEUM
NATURAL HISTORY
Z D

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCXVI.

The three-hundred-and-eleventh Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, June 8th, 1927.

Chairman: G. M. Mathews.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Sir Percy Cox; Major S. S. Flower; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Dr. G. Carmichael Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe; N. S. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; C. B. Rickett; H. C. Robinson; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; B. W. Tucker; Dr. Casey A. Wood.

Guests:—W. J. Craddock; L. R. Fawcus; W. Rowan.

Exhibition of Drawings and Specimens of Melanistic Forms of various Families of Birds.

Lord Rothschild, F.R.S., exhibited a series of drawings of melanistic mutants of various families of birds, and said :—

Recently much interest has been aroused by the increasing numbers of the melanistic mutation of the Common Pheasant (mut. *tenebrosus* Hachisuka), and a great deal has been written and talked about this bird which is quite erroneous. The most frequent suggestion made is that these dark Pheasants, with their blue males and the females resembling the Red Grouse, are solely the result of hybridisation of the Common Pheasant with the Japanese Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus versicolor*). This is not the case, as the above-mentioned dark Pheasant appears occasionally among pure wild *P. c. colchicus*, among the mongrel race of Pheasants common to most woods and coverts, often the offspring of three or four races of *P. colchicus*, and also among Pheasants crossed with *P. c. versicolor*. In all three cases the mutation is similar: viz., the cocks have breast and flanks deep blue with white shaft-markings on flanks and no white neck-ring, while the hens are deep brown and heavily barred. In contrast to these the non-melanistic examples of the *versicolor* cross show in the cocks a strong DARK GREEN not BLUE suffusion on the breast and more or less red on the flanks, whilst the hens are grey like *c. colchicus* hens, only darker. This tendency to melanistic mutation is found in many birds besides those of which pictures are shown to-night ; and, in addition to the skins of certain normal birds exhibited for comparison and enumerated later, I have brought the skins of the following, showing melanic mutants :—

1. Lanius schach schach Linn.

and melanic mutants *L. fuscatus* Less. and a more extreme form.

2. Siphia strophiata stophiata Hodgs.

and its melanic mutant.

3. Hæmatopus o. ostralegus Linn.
and melanic mutant *H. meadewaldoi* Bann.

4. Himantopus leucocephalus Gould
and melanic mutant *H. novæzealandiæ* Gould.

5. Stercorarius parasiticus (Linn.)
and dark form.

6. Stercorarius longicaudus (Vieill.)
and dark phase.

7. Aestrelata neglecta Schleg.
and dark phase.

8. Numida galeata Pall.
and violet-mauve mutant.

9. Accipiter albigularis Gray
and mut. *versicolor* Rams.

10. Accipiter leucosomus Sharpe
and black mutant.

11. Accipter ovampensis Gurn.
and mut. *hilgerti* Erl.

12. Accipiter ventralis Sclat.
and mut. *nigroplumbeus* Lawr.

13. Cuculus solitarius Steph.
and mut. *clamosus* Lath.

14. Clamator jacobinus hypopinarius Cab. & Heine.
and mut. *serrator* Sparrm.

15. Podica senegalensis Vig.
and mut. *camarunensis* Sjöst.

16. Tchitrea ignea (Reichenow)
and mut. *camburni* Neum.

17. Rhipidura flabellifera (Gm.)
and mut. *fuliginosa* (Sparrm.).

Besides these the following show dark mutants :—*Pavo cristatus* Linn. with *P. cristatus* mut. *nigripennis* Sclat. ; *Catarrhactes pachyrhynchus* Gray and mut. *atratus* Hutt. ; and *Catarrhactes schlegeli* Finsch, also with an entirely black mutant. Most of the white-breasted dark-backed Petrels (Procellariidæ) have a melanistic phase with the breast sooty-grey, brown, or black. Also *Melanerpes rubrifrons* Spix and *M. cruentatus* ; *Cacomantis simus* Peale and *C. infuscatus* Hartl. ; *Attila spadicea* Gm. and *A. brasiliensis* Less. ; *Terpsiphone* (*Tchitrea*) *tricolor* Fras. and *T.* (*T.*) *rufiventris* Swains. ; *Malaconotus perspicillatus* Rchnw. and *M. gladiator* Rchnw. ; *Siphia strophiata strophiata* Hodgs. with a mutant having the throat and breast entirely black ; and *Chlorophoneus multicolor* Gray and *Chl. nigrithorax* Sharpe are respectively the normal forms and melanic mutants. It should be here pointed out that the melanic mutants of the Golden Pheasant (mut. *obscurus* Schleg.) and of the Peacock (mut. *nigripennis* Sclat.) are only known in captivity, never having been found in a wild state. It is also of importance to remember that there has been much difference of opinion on the question of the status of the "Oystercatchers" ; Dr. Hartert has united them all into two species, the "Pied" *Hæmatopus ostralegus* and the "Black" *H. niger*, each with numerous subspecies. Dr. Stresemann has, however—and he believed rightly,—pointed out that while the two African black forms *niger* (=*mocquini*) and *meadewaldoi* have the razor-edged bill of *ostralegus*, the other black races *ater*, *unicolor*, etc., have more rounded bills and are certainly distinct from the two above-mentioned ones. He therefore was convinced that *niger* from South Africa, which is entirely black, and *meadewaldoi* from the Canary Islands, with a little white on the wing, are two local melanic mutants of *ostralegus* which have in their respective habitats completely ousted the typical form. He exhibited the following drawings :—

1 *a*. Phasianus colchicus mut. *tenebrosus* Hachis.

2 *a*. Chrysolophus pictus mut. *obscurus* Schleg.

3 *a*. Lophophorus impejanus (Lath.)
and melanic mutant.

4 *a*. Perdix perdix (Linn.)
and black-masked heavily-barred mutant.

5 *a*. Perdix perdix mut. *montanus* Gm.,
extreme form and less extreme form.

6 *a*. Alectoris rufa rufa (Linn.)
and melanic mutant.

7 *a*. Tympanuchus cupido pallidicinctus Ridgw.
and melanic mutant.

8 *a*. Tetrastes bonasia griseiventris Menzb.
form. norm. *volgensis* Buturl. and melanic mutant *griseiventris* Menzb.

9 *a*. Coturnix coturnix (Linn.)
and ♂ ♀ mut. *lodoisiæ* Verr. & des Murs.

10 *a*. Aptenodytes patagonica Forst.
and black-breasted mutation.

11 *a*. Charmosyna stellæ goliathina Rothsch. & Hart,
and mut. *atra* Rothsch.

12 *a*. Capella gallinago gallinago (Linn.)
and mut. *sabinei* Vig., ordinary form and extreme form.

13 *a*. Scolopax rusticola Linn.
and melanic mutant.

14 *a*. Eremophila alpestris rubea Hensh.
and mut. *berlepschi* Hart.

Lord Rothschild also exhibited for comparison the following skins :—

1. Various examples of Phasianus colchicus × P. c. versicolor, ♂.

1. P. c. versicolor, ♂ ♀.

2. Numida galeata Pall.

3. Chrysolophus pictus Linn., ♂ ♀.

4. P. colchicus mut. *tenebrosus* Hachis., extreme ♀.

He said in the above exhibits the following called for some remarks:—No. 3 *a*, *Lophophorus impejanus*, shows in a wild state strong individual variation, and the melanistic mutants are of four kinds: the one shown on the drawing, which is the nearest equivalent to *P. c. colchicus* mut. *tenebrosus*; then *L. impejanus* mut. *chambayanus*, intermediate between above and *impejanus*; thirdly, mut. *mantoui*, with the metallic green and copper of the hind-neck and interscapulum replaced by deep purple-blue; and, fourthly, mut. *obscurus*, entirely dull black with the tail cinnamon-brown as in normal examples. No. 4 *a*, *Perdix perdix*. The mutant is from Devonshire, two examples being at Tring. No. 10. In this Goshawk there are three forms: first, the typical *leucosomus*, which is pure white all over; secondly, the black mutant figured; and, thirdly, the normal form, also figured, = *etorques* Salv. No. 11 *a*. In some parts of the ranges of the three races of *Charmosyna stellæ* the black mutant forms quite half the number of the examples observed, especially in the Weyland Mts. In the case of *Cacomantis simus* and *C. infuscatus*, and in Nos. 13 & 14, *Cuculus solitarius* and *Clamator j. hypopinarius*, many authors maintain that the birds treated here as melanistic mutants are good species or subspecies. Their reason is that in some parts of the ranges of these birds one form only is found. In answer to this, the facts are that in the majority of cases melanism proves to be a "Dominant" factor, and throughout the animal kingdom many melanic forms have almost ousted the original form or are in a considerable majority; and in the case of these Cuckoos this is certainly the fact, at all events, in parts of their range.

In the case of *Chlorophoneus multicolor* and *Ch. nigrithorax* the black of the fore-neck and breast is very sharply defined

and cut off from the orange-yellow of the belly, and does not run into it as the orange-red of the normal bird does; all the same, such appearances are not unique among mutants, and it is almost certain that this also is only a case of melanistic mutation. In the case of *Lanius schach schach* Linn. and *L. fuscatus* Less., Monsieur Delacour's series from Indo-China proves this to be undoubtedly a case of melanic mutation and not, as Mr. La Touche maintains, two separate species. Another case of a similar mutation is that of *Butorides brevipes* (Hempr. & Ehr.), which is the melanic mutant of *Butorides striatus atricapillus* Afzel. The Spur-winged Geese are another example of melanic mutations, *Plectropterus gambensis* and *Pl. g. rüppelli* Sclat., having as respective melanic mutants *Pl. niger* Sclat. and *Pl. scioanus* Salvad. The Skuas (*Stercorarius*) form an analogous case to the Petrels before mentioned, as each species of Skua is found in a light and dark phase.

In conclusion, he said that he diagnosed the difference between a mutation and an aberration as consisting in the fact that a mutation paired with a similar mutation breeds true from the first generation, whereas an aberration did not breed true, or else displayed partial or entire Mendelian segregation.

These remarks were followed by a discussion, in which Mr. Bannerman, Mr. Stuart Baker, Dr. P. R. Lowe, Prof. Rowan, and others joined, from which it appeared that there was a considerable diversity of opinion on the subject.

Exhibition of a Picture of the Dodo.

Dr. Casey A. Wood exhibited a remarkably fine water-colour painting of a Dodo (*Didus cucullatus*), formerly in the collection of Taylor White, F.R.S., of Wallingwells, Notts. This picture, together with nine hundred paintings of birds and other vertebrates, has recently been acquired by the Blacker Library of Zoology, McGill University, Montreal.

Dr. Casey Wood remarked that, though the present picture closely resembled the one in the British Museum, he had come to the conclusion, after a careful study, that it was a portrait of a different bird.

Dr. Casey Wood also showed a photograph of a "feather picture" in the Blacker Library which is supposed to represent a Dodo—it was made by Dionisio Minaggio, of Milan, in 1618.

In conjunction with Mr. Casey Wood's exhibition Lord Rothschild also exhibited the picture of the Reunion, or White Dodo, by Pieter Witthoos and its companion picture. He said that he had given a full account of this picture in 'The Ibis,' vol. i. 11th series, 1919, p. 78, plate ii., so he would only say here that the first mention of the Reunion Dodo (*Didus solitarius* = *Didus borbonicus*) was that of Chief Officer Tatton in Castleton's Voyage ('Purchas his Pilgrimes,' 1625 edition, vol. i. p. 331: "Bourbon ou Reunion"). There are five pictures extant of the White Dodo taken from life, viz., two by Pieter Witthoos and two by Pieter Holsteyn—all four from a living adult female which was brought to Amsterdam between the years 1670 and 1693. The fifth picture is that published by Frauenfeldt of the young bird brought alive to the Vienna Imperial Palace of Schoenbrunnen.

On a new Race of *Muscicapula melanoleuca*.

Mr. C. Boden Kloss forwarded the following communication :—

When Mr. H. C. Robinson and I recorded specimens of the Little Pied Flycatcher from Annam merely as *Muscicapula melanoleuca* (Hodgs.) in 'Ibis,' 1919, p. 446, we did so because, while we were able to note differences between them and *M. m. westermanni* Sharpe, of the Malay States, we were at the time unable to say whether they differed from the typical form inhabiting India and Burma.

With females from the Naga Hills now before me—which are not, as Mr. E. S. Baker says (Fauna Brit. India, Birds, ii. 1924, p. 224), the Malayan race, but are far browner and

probably belong to the typical form—I find that Annam birds differ in being greyer, much less brown, above. As they are also paler and greyer, less bluish, above than Malayan birds and slightly tinged with ochraceous on the rump, they represent a subspecies which may be known as

Muscicapula melanoleuca langbianis Kloss, subsp. nov.

Type in the British Museum: adult female collected at Arbre Broyé, Langbian Massif, South Annam, 5400 ft., on 14th May, 1918, by C. Boden Kloss. Wing 60 mm. Registered No. 1927. 6. 1. 1.

South-eastern females (*hasselti* Temm., of Java) are, as regards brownness, very near to the north-western birds.

Descriptions of Two new Birds from Bonin Islands and Volcano Islands, Japan.

On behalf of Mr. T. T. Momiyama, the Editor forwarded the following description :—

Zosterops palpebrosa boninsimæ, subsp. nov.

This race is nearest in size to *Z. p. stejnegeri* Seebohm (1891) from Seven Islands (type-locality—Hatidio-sima), and is intermediate between that form and *Z. p. alani* Hartert (1905) from Volcano or Ywô Islands (type-locality—"S. Dionisio" error, restricted type-locality, Sulphur Island), but the bill is decidedly shorter than *Z. p. stejnegeri* and distinctly longer and broader than *Z. p. alani*.

Measurements :—

	Z. p. stejnegeri. 31♂ & 16♀.	*Z. p. boninsimæ.* 18♂ & 15♀.	*Z. p. alani.* 19♂ & 13♀.
	mm.	mm.	mm.
Exposed culmen.....	15–17	12·5–15	12–14
Bill from nostril.....	9–11	8–9·5	7·5–9
Width of bill at nostril	4·5–5·3	4–4·5	4–4·8
Height of bill at nostril	3·5–4·5	3·5–4·5	3–4·2
Wing	59–64·5	59–64·5	56–63·5
Tail	43·5–51	45–51	44–52

Type in Athenæi Ornithologici Momiyamici: ♂ ad., Ohmura, Titi-sima, Bonin Islands, Dec. 13th, 1924. Collected by T. T. Momiyama. No. 1266.

Distribution. Probably confined in Bonin Islands.

Material examined. 44 birds from Hatidio-sima, 1 only from Awoga-sima, 2 from Miyake-sima, of *Z. p. stejnegeri*; 25 from San Alessandro I., 7 from Sulphur I., of *Z. p. alani*; and 22 from Titi-sima and 11 from Haha-sima, of Bonin Islands new race.

Horornis diphone iwootoensis, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *H. d. diphone* (Kittlitz) (1830) from Bonin Islands, but the bill thicker and stouter and the tail and tarsus longer.

Measurements:—

	H. d. iwootoensis.		*H. d. diphone.*	
	11 ♂.	8 ♀.	16 ♂.	18 ♀.
	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.
Exposed culmen.....	13·5–14	12·5–13	13·5–14	12·5–13
Width of bill at nostril.	4·5–5	3·7–4	3·7–4·5	3·5–3·8
Height of both mandibles at nostril ..	3·5–4	2·6–3·5	3–3·5	2·5–3
Wing	57·5–60	49·5–52	55·5–58·5	47–49·5
Tail	59·5, 63–66·5	55–59	63–66	52–55
Tarsus.....	23–25	20–22	23–24	19·5–21

Type in Athenæi Ornithologici Momiyamici: ♂ ad., Motoyama, Sulphur Island, Volcano Islands, Dec. 20th, 1924. Collected by T. T. Momiyama. No. 1297.

Distribution. Probably confined to the Volcano Islands.

Material examined. 8 ♂ and 2 ♀ from Sulphur Island or Naka-Ywô-tô, 3 ♂ and 6 ♀ from San Alessandro Island or Kita-Ywô-tô, of the new form. 9 ♂ and 9 ♀ from Titi-sima or Peel Island, 6 ♂ and 6 ♀ from Haha-sima or Coffin Island, 1 ♂ and 2 ♀ from Mei-sima, 1 ♀ from Mukou-sima or Plymouth Island, of the Bonin Islands race.

Mr. David Bannerman exhibited some interesting birds obtained this year by Admiral Lynes during his travels in

South Africa, and described a new Moor-Chat and a new Swamp-Warbler from the Benguella Province of Angola.

Myrmecocichla lynesi, sp. nov.

Forehead, crown, and nape brown, the freshly-moulted feathers broadly fringed with grey and buff, so that the bird appears to have a light head spotted with brown until the margins wear off. A patch of short dark bristles in front of each eye. Mantle, back, coverts, and secondaries brown with pale margins. Feathers along the bend of the wing whitish. Rump and upper tail-coverts white. Basal half of primaries white, forming a distinct wing-patch ; remainder blackish. Rectrices white at the base for one-third their length, remaining part blackish-brown. Chin white ; throat buffish-white. Remainder of the under surface greyish-white marbled with brown, caused by the exposed dark middles to the feathers. Soft feathers of the flanks brown and buff. Under tail-coverts white. Bill black with short stiff rictal bristles. Feet black.

Bill, from nasal aperture, 12 mm. ; wing 104 (3rd primary in moult) ; tail 78 ; tarsus 35.

Type in the British Museum : ♂ ad. (in moult), Huambo, Beengulla Prov., Angola, 26th Feb., 1927. Admiral H. Lynes coll. No. 424.

Habitat. Grassy moors, 5500 ft. above the sea. The female resembles the male and is likewise two-thirds through its moult. The head, however, is much more uniform brown, the pale edges of the feathers having been worn off.

This very distinct species is quite unlike any known *Myrmecocichla*, and Admiral Lynes, in whose honour the bird is named, is to be congratulated on such an interesting discovery.

Bradypterus brachypterus benguellensis, subsp. nov.

This new Swamp-Warbler resembles somewhat *B. b. centralis* and *B. msiri*, but is darker than either. It is also a larger bird than *centralis*, the wing of the male being 65 and

of the female 58 mm., while the tail from the base measures 70 (much worn) and 80 mm. (fresh moulted) respectively. The darker coloration and the shorter, more slender bill (11–12 mm. exposed) distinguish it from the typical species.

This is, in fact, the darkest member of the group which I have examined; the freshly-moulted feathers of the upper parts are deep brown and entirely lack the rich chestnut tinge of *msiri*. As in *B. b. brachypterus*, there are a few blackish streaks on the lower part of the throat.

The male, which has not quite completed its moult, was courting a female (not obtained). Admiral Lynes was of opinion, from examination of the sexual organs, that the birds had not commenced to breed, but were on the point of doing so.

Bill slaty-black, with basal half of lower mandible yellowish-white; bill-lining pale primrose; palate delicate flesh in male, dusky with flesh tint in female; legs and feet dirty grey.

The stomach contained insects.

Type in the British Museum: ♂ ad., Chicuma, Benguella Prov., Angola, 9th Feb., 1927. Admiral Lynes collection. No. 348.

Habitat. "A swamp in grass-land," Chicuma, 5400 ft., and "open swamp," Huambo, 5500 ft., Benguella Province.

On a new Race of Rock-Thrush, *Monticola rufiventris* (*erythrogaster* auctorum) *.

Mrs. A. C. Meinertzhagen forwarded the following description of a new race of Rock-Thrush :—

Monticola rufiventris sinensis, subsp. nov.

Male. They appear darker on the upper parts, but this may not be constant, and cannot be decided till more specimens are available.

Female. Distinguished from the female *M. r. rufiventris* by the darker, more slate-coloured upper parts ; lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts barred and with horseshoe-

* *Vide* Oberholser, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. xxxiv. 1921, p. 49.

shaped markings of ash-grey instead of yellowish-buff as in typical *M. r. rufiventris* (two Chinese specimens examined had some feathers of the rump with yellowish-buff bars).

The underparts are usually darker, the ground-colour black-brown, barred lightish buff; in the typical form the underparts are barred black-brown and yellowish-buff; worn specimens of *M. r. rufiventris* with yellow tips and bars abraded have underparts almost as dark as the Chinese birds.

Measurements: 5 ♂, wing 123–128 mm.; 7 ♀, wing 119–130 mm.

Material examined. 5 ♂ & 7 ♀ from Fokien and Yunnan.

Type in the British Museum: ♀, Kuatun, N.W. Fokien, 21st May, 1927. Reg. No. 1905. 12. 24. 349. Collected by C. B. Rickett.

Distribution. Southern China. Specimens examined from Fokien and Yunnan. La Touche gives Kwangtung, and West Szechuen where they are resident. Nepal and Sikkim birds appear to be intermediate between the typical and the Chinese form.

Mr. G. M. Mathews forwarded the following corrections to 'Systema Avium Australasianarum,' vol. i. p. 424 :—

Place *Centropus bicolor* Lesson on p. 424 as synonym of *Pyrrhocentor celebensis* (Q. et G.) (p. 423), and page 403 delete first reference, i. e., *Collocalia f. spodiopygia.*

Description of an apparently new Form of Jay from the Island of Hokkaido, Japan.

On behalf of Dr. N. Kuroda, the Editor forwarded the following description :—

Garrulus glandarius pallidifrons, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Similar to *Garrulus glandarius taczanowskii* Lönnberg, of Sakhalin, but distinguishable from it by the foxy-red colour of the head and neck duller and the general coloration of the forehead and nasal bristles are on an average constantly much more paler buff instead of

intense foxy-red colour. The underparts also paler and the throat buffy-white instead of more foxy-red colour wash than in those of *taczanowskii*. (10 specimens examined.)

Type. ♂ ad., Uenai, Yufutsu-gun, Prov. Iburi, Hokkaido, N. Japan, 22. xi. 1925. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda coll., No. 9924.

Measurements of Type (♂). Wing 178 mm.; tail 157; tarsus 41; entire culmen 34; depth of bill at nostril 12·1; width of upper mandible at anterior of nasal bristles 8·5.

Measurements of other specimens :—

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Entire culmen.	Depth of bill at nostril.	Width of upper mandible at anterior of nasal bristles.
3♂	176·5–177·5	154–159	41·5–43·5	30–31·5	11·9–12·5	7·5–8·1
6♀	171–177	150–153	38–42·5	31·5–34	11·5–12·5	7·5–8

Habitat. Apparently confined to the island of Hokkaido, North Japan.

Remarks. Specimens from Central Korea and South Manchuria (Dalni) are identical with Momiyami's *okai* * (1927) of Korea, but if *ussuriensis* Buturlin (1910) is wholly separable from *brandtii* as a good form, *okai* seems to be merely a synonym of *ussuriensis*. Two specimens from Kunashiri, Kurile Islands, do not differ from *taczanowskii* and are apparently separable from the new form from Hokkaido.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker forwarded the following description of a new subspecies of Fishing-Eagle :—

Ichthyophaga ichthyaëtus plumbeiceps, subsp. nov.

Similar in every way to *I. i. ichthyaëtus*, except in being much smaller and in fully adult plumage rather less cinereous brown above, a difference already pointed out by Legge.

Measurements. Wing 420 to 435 mm., once 445; tail 232 to 242; tarsus about 85 to 90; culmen about 45 to 47.

* *Garrulus brandtii okai* Momiyama, Journal of Chosen Natural History Society, no. 4, pp. 5, 6, Jan. 10, 1927 (Koryo, C. Korea).

In the typical form the wing is generally between 460 and 515 mm., once 450. The culmen is 47 to 54 mm.

Distribution. Ceylon only. There is no material available to show whether birds in South Travancore are of this small race or of the larger northern form.

Type in the British Museum: ♂, Trincomalee, Ceylon, 15th June, 1875. Collected by Col. W. V. Legge. Reg. No. 1878. 10. 4. 86.

Material examined. Typical form 22. Ceylon form 7 specimens.

Mr. Baker also renamed the Vulture *Gyps indicus tenuirostris*:—

The name *tenuirostris* of Hume (Str. Feath. vii. p. 32[6], 1878) is unavailable, as Gray in 1869 in his 'Hand-List' gives this name and *tenuiceps* as synonyms of *G. indicus*.

Hodgson's name *tenuiceps* is a *nomen nudum*, and Gray again gives it as a *nomen nudum* in 1846. Neither *tenuirostris* nor *tenuiceps* were therefore available for use by Hume in 1878.

On account of its extremely bald head and neck, I name it **Gyps indicus nudiceps, nom. nov.**

New Birds from Indo-China.

M. J. Delacour sent the description of forty new forms of birds discovered and collected by M. P. Jabouille, Mr. W. P. Lowe, and himself during their third Expedition to French Indo-China in 1926–1927:—

Phasianus colchicus takatsukasæ, subsp. nov.

Allied to *P. c. torquatus* Gm., from S.E. China and N.E. Tonkin, but generally darker, especially the yellow colour of the flanks and upper back, which is richer and deeper; the chestnut of the scapulars and greater wing-coverts is also of a much darker shade, more maroon. The lower back is browner and darker and the purplish-lilac fringe of the rectrices is much deeper. The white eyebrow is present in all our specimens.

The female is altogether darker than *P. c. torquatus* with coarser markings.

♂. Iris orange-yellow ; bill greenish-white ;. legs and feet light grey.

♀. Iris brown ; bill and legs horny-grey.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 243 mm. ♀. Wing 210 mm.

Types in the Paris Museum. ♂ & ♀. Langson, Eastern Tonkin, Jan. 12 and 17, 1927. Nos. 2599 and 2660.

Material examined. Nine examples.

Note.—Named in honour of Prince N. Takatsukasa.

Ring-necked Pheasants, obtained in N.E. Tonkin (Nganson), differ from Langson specimens, and can be referred to *P. c. torquatus,* but are a slightly darker yellow on the upper back than in most Chinese specimens.

Tropicoperdix charltoni tonkinensis, subsp. nov.

Differs considerably from *T. charltoni charltoni* (Eyton), from Siam and the Malay States, in having the ear-coverts mingled grey and chestnut instead of plain russet-chestnut, a smaller chestnut area on the breast, not extending to the sides of the neck, no black collar on the throat and no black stripes on the sides of the neck. The upper parts and flanks are more blotched with black, and the spotted plumage of the lower breast reaches lower and runs into the buffish-yellow of the abdomen. Iris brown ; eyelids grey with red border ; bill greenish-yellow with red base ; legs and feet greenish-yellow, nails yellow.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 157 mm.; tail 80 ; tarsus 40 ; culmen 20.

Types in the Paris Museum. Backan (N.E. Tonkin), Jan. 3, 1927. No. 2343.

Material examined. Eighteen specimens.

Sphenurus sieboldi murielæ, subsp. nov.

Differs from other *S. sieboldi* (Temm.) in its much smaller size, paler and less yellow head, throat, and breast, and in having a very distinct orange tinge on the upper breast. The whole colour is greyer and less yellowish. The female is very similar to that of *S. sieboldi sieboldi*, but decidedly smaller and slightly less yellow on the forehead, throat, and breast.

Iris: inner ring blue, outer ring pink; bill blue with horny tip; legs and feet dark crimson.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 175 mm.; tail 123; tarsus 22; culmen 20. ♀. Wing 180 mm.; tail 124; tarsus 20; culmen 18.

Types in the British Museum. ♂. Hanoï, Central Tonkin, Jan. 17, 1927. No. 2823. ♀. Tam Dao, Central Tonkin, Nov. 30, 1926. No. 1398. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 1 & 2.

Material examined. Three examples.

Note.—Named in honour of Mrs. Alfred Ezra.

Megalæma lagrandieri rothschildi, subsp. nov.

Differs from Cochin-Chinese and Annamese specimens in having the frontal plumes and bristles crimson (with obsolete grey basis) instead of yellow and crimson, and the general colour slightly darker.

Iris brown; bill greenish-grey with dark culmen; legs and feet dusky green.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 138 mm.; tail 109; tarsus 30; culmen 42.

Type in the ~~British~~ Museum. ♂. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. 24, 1926. No. 2136. PARIS (cf. Bull. B.O.C. xlviii. p. 136)

Material examined. Fifteen examples.

Note.—Named in honour of Lord Rothschild.

Cyanops franklini tonkinensis, subsp. nov.

Resembles *C. f. franklini* (Blyth), but distinguishable by the blue, not so yellowish, general colour and the much reduced black stripes on the sides of the head.

Iris brown; bill black with grey gape and base of maxilla; legs and feet greenish-grey.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 101 mm.; tail 70; tarsus 24; culmen 24.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Tam Dao, Central Tonkin, Nov. 11, 1926. No. 1220.

Material examined. Nineteen specimens.

Note.—Specimens from Laos and Annam belong to a widely different form, *C. f. auricularis* Rob. & Kloss.

Thereiceryx faiostrictus pallidus, subsp. nov.

Birds from Tonkin differ from those from Annam and Cochin China by the slightly larger size, the paler yellowish-green colour, and in having the head-feathers with broader light grey margins.

Iris hazel-brown; bill horny-grey with black culmen; legs and feet greenish-grey.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 120 mm.; tail 82; tarsus 24; culmen 28.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. 7, 1926. No. 1603.

Material examined. Twenty-three specimens.

Gecinulus grantia indochinensis, subsp. nov.

Intermediate between *G. g. grantia* (McClell.) from the Himalayas and *G. g. viridanus* Slater from S. China, but nearer to the latter, from which it differs in the more chestnut mantle and redder wings. From *G. g. grantia* it is distinguished by the larger size and less bright colour.

Iris red; eyelids green; bill greenish-white; legs and feet greenish-grey.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 130 mm; tail 110; tarsus 21; culmen 23.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. 12, 1926. No. 1616. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 3.

Material examined. Seven specimens.

Note.—Specimens from S. Annam are identical with the Tonkinese series.

Blythipicus pyrrhotis intermedius, subsp. nov.

Larger and not so dark as *B. p. annamensis* Kinnear from S. Annam, but with broader and less distant dark bars on the wings. Very much darker than *B. p. sinensis* (Rickett).

Iris reddish-brown; bill light yellow; legs and feet dark greenish-grey.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 147 mm.; tail 121; tarsus 24; culmen 46.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. ~~12~~, 1926. No. 1662. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 4.

Material examined. Thirteen examples.

Anthocichla phayrei obscura, subsp. nov.

Much darker than *A. p. phayrei* Blyth from Burma and Siam, with dark blackish nape.

Iris brown; bill black; legs and feet horny flesh-colour.

Measurements: ♀. Wing 106 mm; tail 63; tarsus 29; culmen 22.

Type in the British Museum. ♀. Lakes Babé, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. ~~12~~, 1926. No. 2053. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 5.

Material examined. Three female specimens.

Note.—The male is unknown. A single specimen from Laos agrees with the Tonkin birds.

Pitta douglasi tonkinensis, subsp. nov.

Birds from Tonkin are similar to those from Hainan, but very much larger. Like all Pittas of the *nepalensis* group, there is much individual variation.

Iris brown; bill brown; culmen black; legs and feet horny flesh-colour.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 125 mm; tail 66; tarsus 54; culmen 26.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. 23, 1926. No. 2083. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 6.

Material examined. Sixteen specimens.

Note.—In my report of our 1925–1926 Expedition (Recherches Orn. dans les Provinces du Tranninh, de Thua-Thien et de Kontoum, p. 84) I proposed to consider all the Pittas of the old subgenus *Hydrornis* as subspecies of *P. nipalensis*. The fact that during the present expedition we obtained many specimens of two distinct forms, *P. d. tonkinensis* and *P. n. nipalensis*, in the same localities and at the same time, and that in the winter months and in what seems to be the northernmost territory of the birds, obliges me to change my opinion on the classification of these Pittas.

I now consider that there are four species and two subspecies, as follows:—

Pitta nipalensis nipalensis (Hodgs.).
P. n. soror Wardl. Rams.
P. douglasi douglasi O.-Grant.
P. douglasi tonkinensis Delacour.
P. oatesi (Hume).
P. schneideri Hartert.

Rhipidura albicollis cinerascens, subsp. nov.

Differs from the typical form and from *R. a. atrata* Salv. in its general colour being of a less blackish-grey and in having the chin spotted with white.

Iris dark brown; bill, legs, and feet black.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 75 mm.; tail 105; tarsus 15; culmen 9.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Djiring, S. Annam, March 17, 1927. No. 3970.

Material examined. Ten examples.

Pericrocotus brevirostris tonkinensis, subsp. nov.

Near to *P. b. affinis* McClell. from Assam and N. Burma, but differs in the smaller size and deeper crimson-carmine colour without any yellow tinge. Females are lighter in colour, especially on rump and throat, and have a greener mantle.

Iris dark brown; bill, legs, and feet black.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 88 mm.; tail 95; tarsus 12; culmen 9.

Type in the British Museum. ♂ & ♀. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. 31 and Dec. 23, 1926. Nos. 2298 and 2108. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 7 & 8.

Material examined. Eight specimens.

Pycnonotus hainanus indochinensis, subsp. nov.

Continental specimens from Tonkin and Annam differ from Hainan birds in the much narrower dark brown patch on the nape and the greyer, less yellowish, underparts.

Iris brown ; bill, legs, and feet black.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 85 mm. ; tail 81; tarsus 20; culmen 13.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Langson, E. Tonkin, Jan. 14, 1927. No. 2625.

Material examined. Twenty specimens.

Pycnonotus sinensis meridionalis, subsp. nov.

Resembles in size *P. s. stresemanni* La Touche, but differs in having a smaller white patch on the hind part of the crown and a narrower dark brown one on the nape. The underparts are greyer, less yellowish, and the olive-yellow border on the wing-feathers narrower.

Iris brown; bill, legs, and feet black.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 87 mm. ; tail 83; tarsus 21 ; culmen 13.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Langson, E. Tonkin, Jan. 12, 1927. No. 2582.

Material examined. Nine examples.

Dryonastes perspicillatus annamensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *D. p. perspicillatus* (Gm.) from China and Tonkin in having less black on the forehead and eyebrows, the black colour being less deep. The crown is lighter and more yellowish, and the whole plumage is paler and slightly grey.

Iris reddish-brown ; bill black ; legs and feet brown.

Measurements : ♀. Wing 126 mm. ; tail 152 ; tarsus 40 ; culmen 22.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♀. Huê, C. Annam, April 9, 1926. No. 36.

Material examined. Ten specimens.

Garrulax pectoralis robini, subsp. nov.

Resembles *G. p. picticollis* Swinh. from China, but smaller. The upper parts are of a more olive and darker brown colour, with a much narrower or less bright rufous collar on the hind-neck.

Iris brown ; bill black with base of maxilla grey ; legs and feet grey.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 130 mm. ; tail 142 ; tarsus 44 ; culmen 24.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Tam Dao, C. Tonkin, Dec. 2, 1926. No. 1473. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 9.

Material examined. Six specimens.

Note.—Named in honour of M. R. Robin, Resident Supérieur of Tonkin. Birds collected in Laos (Tranninh) in 1925–1926 belong to the present race.

Garrulax moniliger tonkinensis, subsp. nov.

Near to *G. m. melli* Stresemann from S.E. China, but of a darker and less ochraceous-brown above and with flanks of a deeper reddish-orange.

Iris yellow ; bill black with light edges ; legs and feet grey.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 120 mm. ; tail 133 ; tarsus 43 ; culmen 23.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. 12, 1926. No. 1835. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 10.

Material examined. Ten specimens.

Trochalopterum milnei indochinensis, subsp. nov.

Resembles *T. m. sharpei* Rippon in the grey ear-coverts, but differs in the breast-feathers being olive-brown edged with grey, giving a very particular brown-spotted appearance. The whole plumage is browner, less olive, and the crimson colour on the wing and tail is deeper.

Iris brown ; bill, feet, and legs black.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 109 mm. ; tail 117 ; tarsus 34 ; culmen 19.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Tam Dao, Central Tonkin, Dec. 5, 1926. No. 1569. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 11.

Material examined. Ten specimens.

Pomatorhinus ruficollis saturatus, subsp. nov.

Nearer to *P. r. reconditus* Bangs & Philip from Yunnan, but darker above, with the sides of the neck and nuchal half-collar of a much deeper chestnut; chestnut spots on the breast redder and deeper. Size decidedly smaller.

Iris reddish-brown; bill pale yellow, culmen black; legs and feet grey.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 73 mm.; tail 70; tarsus 28; culmen 17.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Tam Dao, C. Tonkin, Nov. 26, 1926. No. 1285. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 12.

Material examined. Sixteen specimens.

Pomatorhinus ferruginosus orientalis, subsp. nov.

Resembles *P. f. mariæ* Wald., but is smaller and darker brown above; the feathers of the crown have a narrow dark border, giving a slightly scaly aspect; underparts whiter.

Iris yellow; bill red; legs and feet green.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 92 mm.; tail 113; tarsus 32; culmen 26.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Tam Dao, Central Tonkin, Dec. 2, 1926. No. 1485. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 23.

Material examined. Three specimens.

Pomatorhinus tickelli tonkinensis, subsp. nov.

Very close to our *P. t. laotianus*, but with a shorter bill and the colour less greyish, more reddish-brown. The chestnut of the supercilium and sides of the neck is richer, with darker buff spots; the ear-coverts are rufous-buff, instead of brownish-grey. Feathers of the sides of the breast and flanks lighter grey with wider white stripe.

Iris brown; bill grey, darker above; feet and legs horny-grey.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 104 mm.; tail 110; tarsus 40; culmen 38.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Lakes Bahé, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. 20, 1926. No. 2071. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 13.

Material examined. Seven specimens.

Pomatorhinus tickelli friesi, subsp. nov.

Differs from *P. t. laotianus* and *P. t. tonkinensis* in its smaller size and shorter bill. The upper plumage is of a brighter chestnut-brown above, the flanks and breast-feathers paler with a broader central white streak. The chestnut patches on the sides of the neck much reduced and partly replaced by greyish-brown spotted with white instead of buff.

Iris brown ; bill, legs, and feet grey.

Measurements : ♀. Wing 100 mm. ; tail 105 ; tarsus 34; culmen 31.

Type in the British Museum. ♀. Thua-Luu, C. Annam, Feb. 13, 1927. No. 3153. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 14.

Material examined. Four specimens.

Note.—Named in honor of M. C. Fries, Résident Supérieur in Annam.

Jabouilleia, gen nov.

Intermediate between the *Pomatorhinus* of the *tickelli* group and *Rimator*. Differs from the first-mentioned genus in having the tail shorter than the wing and a very different bill, not so long, more compressed, with a higher ridge; nostrils are open and oval.

From *Rimator*, in which it was previously placed, the new genus differs in the much larger size, less Wren-like, with a longer tail, stronger and coarser bill and legs. Culmen ridge higher.

Type : *Rimator danjoui* Rob. & Kloss. ('Ibis,' 1919, p. 578. no. 133).

Note.—Named in honor of my friend and associate-ornithologist, M. P. Jabouille.

Jabouilleia danjoui parvirostris, subsp. nov.

Differs from *J. d. danjoui* (Rob. & Kloss.) from S. Annam in being smaller and with a shorter bill. The rufous patches on the sides of the neck purer and larger, the throat and upper breast pure white and centre of breast white with some

dark brown and chestnut spots ; the centre of abdomen is white, faintly washed with brown.

Iris brown ; bill horny-grey ; legs and feet fleshy-brown.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 72 mm. ; tail 61 ; tarsus 26 ; culmen 22.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Bana, C. Annam, Aug. 14, 1926. No. 725. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 15.

Material examined. Two specimens.

Drymocataphus pusillus, sp. nov.

Upper parts brown, the feathers of the crown with faint dark edgings, the rump and upper tail-coverts brighter. Feathers round the eyes, cheeks, and ear-coverts grey, mottled with brown ; throat pale rufous, each feather terminated with blackish, producing a speckled appearance ; rest of underparts olive-rufous.

Iris brown ; bill horny-grey ; legs and feet brown.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 56 mm. ; tail 55 ; tarsus 20 ; culmen 11.

Type in the ~~Paris~~ Museum. ♂. Tam Dao, C. Tonkin, Dec. 12, 1926. No. 1475. BRITISH / Bull. B.O.C. XLVIII p. 136.

Material examined. A single example.

NOTE.—This very distinct bird is certainly rare and difficult to obtain, as it lives on high mountains among the dense undergrowth. For that reason I venture to name it, although reluctantly, as one specimen only, in poor condition, is available.

Corythocichla brevicaudata obscura, subsp. nov.

A very dark race, nearer to *C. b. leucosticta* Sharpe from the Malay States, but still darker and of a more olive-brown. Wing-spots white.

Iris reddish-brown ; bill blackish above, grey below ; legs and feet dark brown.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 70 mm. ; tail 54 ; tarsus 27 ; culmen 16.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Tam Dao, C. Tonkin, Dec. 2, 1926. No. 1495. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 16.

Material examined. Ten specimens.

Corythocichla brevicaudata rufiventer, subsp. nov.

Nearer to *C. b. venningi* (Harington) from the Shan States, but the feathers on the upper parts with broader dark edgings, and the breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts of a much richer and more reddish-fulvous. Wing-spots buff.

Iris reddish-brown ; bill blackish above, grey below ; feet and legs fleshy-brown.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 56 mm. ; tail 45 ; tarsus 23 ; culmen 14.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Djiring, S. Annam, March 12, 1927. No. 3756. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 17.

Material examined. Two specimens.

Actinodura ramsayi kinneari, subsp. nov.

Resembles *A. r. minor* Kinnear from Western Tonkin, but differs in having the upper parts of a slightly more ochraceous brown ; crown of a lighter brown, less chestnut on the forehead ; wings with a much more reddish tinge, especially on primaries ; deeper black cross-bars, all the different markings being more distinct. Primary coverts and bastard-wing almost pure black. Underparts lighter and of a more buffish-brown.

Iris brown ; bill, feet, and legs grey.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 88 mm. ; tail 119 ; tarsus 29 ; culmen 14.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Tam Dao, Tonkin, Jan. 12, 1926. No. 1464. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 18.

Material examined. Six specimens.

Pterythius ænobarbus laotianus, subsp. nov.

Stands between *P. æ. annamensis* and *P. æ. intermedius* (Hume) from Burma, and differs from the latter in having

a smaller bill, less yellow on the forehead, and much less brown on the breast, although it has much more of it than *P. æ. annamensis.*

Iris brown ; bill grey ; legs and feet horny flesh-colour.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 61 mm. ; tail 43 ; tarsus 18 ; culmen 7.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Xieng-Khowang, Laos, Jan. 7, 1926. No. H. 1616.

Material examined. Four specimens.

Note.—These birds were obtained during our 1925–1926 Expedition, and put down on our report as *P. æ. intermedius* (Hume).

Pterythius ænobarbus indochinensis, subsp. nov.

Very near the typical bird, but with darker chestnut-brown on the forehead and throat, extending a little farther on the upper breast. Front of the crown more yellow ; half-circle in front of the eye blacker.

Iris brown; bill bluish-grey, tip and culmen black; legs and feet flesh-colour.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 61 mm.; tail 42 ; tarsus 18 ; culmen 9.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Djiring, S. Annam, March 12, 1927. No. 3757.

Material examined. Two specimens.

Cissopica, gen. nov.

Differs from *Urocissa* in having a much coarser and more powerful bill and legs, and a shorter tail, never exceeding the wings by more than 30 mm. General plumage grey, black and pale yellow, never blue.

Young birds retain for a long time their distinct juvenile plumage, a very peculiar fact amongst the Corvidæ.

Type : *Urocissa whiteheadi* O.-Grant.

Note.—I chose the name of this new genus to show the affinity of these birds to the *Cissa*, which they exactly resemble in their actions and voice. The only difference in

their habits is that they fly about the trees and bamboos, and across the narrow valleys in larger flocks, often of 20 or 25 individuals.

They also remind one of the true Magpies with their pied plumage, especially on the wing.

Cissopica whiteheadi xanthomelana, subsp. nov.

Rictal bristles mixed black and grey. Forehead and crown black, with narrow brownish edgings to the feathers, giving a very slightly scaly appearance. Mantle black, passing to yellowish on the rump, the feathers of which have yellowish-white tips. Upper tail-coverts dark grey, with broad pale yellow tips and whitish bases. Rectrices yellowish-grey at their base and on one-third of their inner web, then black, with pale yellow tips, increasing on outer feather so that the outermost are yellow on more than half of the length. Primaries black, with grey margins on the base and a small white terminal spot, the outer grey margin obsolete on some specimens; secondaries black, with yellowish-white margins extending to the end of the terminal one-third of the outer web; greater wing-coverts black, with broad pale yellow tips; primary coverts black; lesser wing-coverts, under wing-coverts, and axillaries pale yellow. Chin, throat, and breast black, slightly suffused with yellow, passing to yellowish-grey on the flanks and lower breast, and to pale yellow on the abdomen and under tail-coverts.

Female similar to male.

This bird differs from *C. w. whiteheadi* in its larger size, coarser and larger feet and beak, and in the colour of the rectrices, which are grey with a subterminal black patch in the Hainan bird. Also less grey on the outer webs of primaries.

Iris pale greenish-yellow; bare skin behind the eye brownish-green; beak orange, with a greenish base to the maxilla; legs and feet black, with some orange at the joints; nails brown.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 224 mm.; tail 243; tarsus 52; culmen 42.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. 25, 1926. No. 2150. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 19.

Juvenile plumage. Head, nape, sides of neck, and back dark grey, with light yellowish-grey edgings to the feathers; mantle darker grey; rump light yellowish-grey; tail as in the adults, also the wings, with the exception of the primaries and six first secondaries which have grey outer webs, and the primary coverts are also grey. Chin, throat, and breast yellowish-grey, passing to pale yellow on the abdomen.

Older birds have a darker and almost black mantle.

Iris yellowish-brown; beak brownish-grey, with a small reddish-orange tip and greenish base, rather variable and sometimes entirely grey; feet and legs black.

Material examined. Twenty-two specimens.

Note.—Birds in juvenile plumage being generally more numerous in the flocks than fully adult ones, I believe that they remain a long time in immature dress. The adult birds had not bred for several months, and the sexual organs of the young birds were well developed.

Dendrocitta formosæ intermedia, subsp. nov.

Intermediate between *D. f. himalayensis* Sharpe from the Himalayas and N. Laos and *D. f. sinica* Stresemann from the lower parts of N.E. Tonkin, S. China, but more like the latter, from which it differs in having a longer tail and the basal half about the central rectrices being grey on the outer web.

Iris reddish-brown; bill, legs, and feet black.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 138 mm.; tail 175; tarsus 29; culmen 27.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Tam-Dao, Central Tonkin, Nov. 30, 1926. No. 1410.

Material examined. Six specimens.

Dendrocitta frontalis kurodæ, subsp. nov.

Differs from *D. f. frontalis* in being altogether darker, the rufous and grey parts of the plumage much duller.

Iris reddish-brown; bill, legs, and feet black.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 138 mm. ; tail 224 ; tarsus 29 ; culmen 22.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. 28, 1926. No. 2212.

Material examined. Eight specimens.

Note.—Named in honour of Dr. N. Kuroda, of Tokyo.

Parus minor indochinensis, subsp. nov.

Resembles *P. m. commixtus* Swinh. from S. China, but much smaller.

Iris dark brown ; bill black ; legs and feet bluish-grey.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 62 mm. ; tail 56 ; tarsus 15 ; culmen 8.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Jan. 3, 1927. No. 2349.

Material examined. Eleven specimens.

Note.—Birds from Xieng-Khusang, Laos, reported as *P. major thibetanus*, can be referred to the present race, though slightly larger.

Parus monticolus legendrei, subsp. nov.

Differs from all other races in having a much duller and lighter yellow on the underpart, a broader black line on breast and abdomen, and a duller and greyer-green mantle.

Iris dark brown ; bill black ; legs and feet bluish-grey.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 65 mm. ; tail 16 ; tarsus 16 ; culmen 9.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Djiring, S. Annam, March 3, 1927. No. 3604.

Material examined. Ten examples.

Note.—Named in honour of M. Marcel Legendre.

Psittiparus ruficeps magnirostris, subsp. nov.

Near to *P. r. bakeri* Hartert from Burma, but differs in having a larger and thicker bill, darker brown upper parts, richer and more reddish-rufous head and neck.

Iris reddish-brown ; bill, legs, and feet bluish-grey.

Measurements : ♂. Wing 90 mm. ; tail 90 ; tarsus 21 ; culmen 14.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Tam-Dao, C. Tonkin, Dec. 1, 1926. No. 1426.

Material examined. Six specimens.

Psittiparus margaritæ, sp. nov.

Forehead, crown, and nape deep black. Lores, feathers round the eyes and sides of the neck mottled white and dark grey; ear-coverts similar, but darker; pileous feathers round the bill and chin black; throat white, with a few black spots on the middle forming faint streaks. Underparts slightly yellowish-white. Upper parts light brown, with blackish inner webs to the primaries and a slightly greyer tail with faint whitish tips to the rectrices.

Iris brown; bill reddish-orange; legs and feet green.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 87 mm.; tail 83; tarsus 26; culmen 14.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Djiring, S. Annam, March 3, 1926. No. 3356.

Material examined. Three specimens.

Note.—Named in honour of my mother. The occurrence of a Crow-Tit at as low a latitude as 11° is a remarkable circumstance. This distinct species is nearest to *P. gularis*.

Suthora davidiana tonkinensis, subsp. nov.

Resembles *S. d. thompsoni* (Bingham) from the Shan States, but differs in having pale grey shafts to the feathers of the lower throat, producing a squamated appearance; also the colour of the throat is not sharply defined from that of the breast, but blends into the grey of the underparts, which is purer; tail-feathers dark brown, edged with chestnut on inner webs and reddish on outer webs.

Iris reddish-brown; bill white; legs and feet fleshy-grey.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 50 mm.; tail 39; tarsus 16; culmen 11.

Type in the Paris Museum. ♂. Backan, N.E. Tonkin, Dec. 12, 1926. No. 1701.

Material examined. Only one specimen.

Oriolus traillii robinsoni, subsp. nov.

The *adult male* differs from *O. t. traillii* (Vig.) from India, Burma, N. Laos, and Tonkin in its slightly smaller size, shorter and thicker bill, and in its lighter and more crimson maroon colour.

The *adult female* is quite different to that of *O. t. traillii*. The head, neck, wings, and thighs are black; the back blackish-brown suffused with crimson, passing to crimson on the rump and upper tail-coverts; tail-feathers crimson-maroon with black shafts, the central ones with a broad blackish margin, the others with a dark border on the outer web only. Underparts crimson-maroon like those of the male, but the maroon is merely a broad fringe; the whole of the hidden part of the feathers is grey instead of white, with the exception of a small white base, and produces a rather dark and slightly scaly aspect.

The *young male* has the crown, hind part, and sides of the neck black; upper parts blackish-brown, passing to dark crimson-maroon on the rump and tail-coverts. Tail-feathers light pinkish-maroon with an outer brown margin, the central rectrices almost entirely pinkish-brown. The whole of the underparts streaked light pinkish-buff and dark brown, the abdomen with larger and whiter markings.

The *young female* is similar, with coarser and whiter markings underneath.

A *nestling*, just out of the nest, has the whole head and neck smoky-black; the upper parts blackish, with chestnut-brown margins to the feathers broader on the rump and passing to pinkish-chestnut on the tail-coverts; tail light crimson and brown. Underparts streaked brown and pinkish-buff, with white marking on the abdomen. Iris grey.

Iris yellow; bill, legs, and feet bluish-grey.

Measurements: ♂. Wing 142 mm.; tail 102; tarsus 22; culmen 25.

♀. Wing 142 mm.; tail 102; tarsus 23; culmen 26.

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Djiring, S. Annam, March 1 and 5, 1927. Nos. 3349 and 3522. Registered No. 1927. 6. 5. 20 & 21.

Material examined. Thirty-one specimens.

Note.—In N.E. Tonkin we found together typical *O. t. traillii* and a light crimson bird with a shorter and thicker bill; careful comparison has shown that the latter is identical with *O. ardens* Swinh. from Formosa and *O. nigellicauda* Swinh. from Hainan. We therefore consider that there is only one form of the Crimson Oriole, *O. ardens*, inhabiting Formosa, Hainan, and Tonkin.

Dr. Stresemann's *Oriolus mellianus* is quite a distinct bird, with a grey back. When more material than the single female is available, it will be possible to decide whether it is a subspecies of *O. ardens* or of *O. traillii*.

Arborophila davidi, sp. nov.

A very distinct species, not nearly allied to any Indo-Chinese form.

Forehead to the eyes dirty greyish, hinder crown barred with black and dull rufous; occiput and nape black. From behind the eye a broad grey stripe becoming rust-red on sides of neck; a broad black stripe from the jaw-gape running round the throat over the ear-coverts; chin white, throat rust-red; upper chest dull brown, washed with ferruginous; upper breast grey, with large heart-shaped black spots on each feather, bordered basally with buffy-white; belly greyish-white; under tail-coverts black with broad greyish-white tips and a narrow buffy subbasal bar. Flank-feathers greyish at the base, with very broad glossy black bars and tips and a much narrower subterminal white bar.

Upper surface much as in *A. brunneipectus*.

Iris brown; bill black, the base of the mandible and the skin of the face and throat red; feet and claws "rose."

Wing 134 mm.; tail 49; tarsus 30; bill from gape 21.

Type in the British Museum. Sex uncertain. Phurieng, 38 miles east of Saigon, Cochin China, altitude 800 feet. Collected on 1st February, 1927, by Mons. André David, in whose honour the species is named. Reg. No. 1927. 6. 5. 24.

This handsome Tree-Partridge is not closely allied to any known form. It is perhaps nearest to *A. rubrirostris* (Salvad.) from Sumatra, but that species has the head black, the throat black and white, and with no ferruginous markings anywhere.

Picus chlorolophus harmandi, subsp. nov.

Differs from *P. c. burmæ* Meinertzhagen (*P. c. chlorolophoides* Gyldenstolpe) in its pale lemon crest, devoid of any tinge of orange or chrome. Darker above than any of the other races, except *P. c. rodgeri* (Hartert & Butler) from the mountains of the Malay Peninsula and *P. c. vanheysti* from Sumatra.

Iris red ; bill plumbeous, bright yellow at base ; legs and feet greyish-green.

Measurements: Wing 138 mm.; tail 100; bill from gape 29.

Type in ~~Paris~~ Museum. ♀ adult. Collected at Phurieng, North Cochin China, on March 30th, 1927, by Messrs. J. Delacour and Jabouille. No. 4289.

BRITISH (Bull. B.O.C. XLVIII. p. 136)

There is also an adult male from the Hargitt Collection in the British Museum, collected in Cochin China by Harmand. Registered No. 98. 3. 10. 368.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, October 12th, 1927, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. G. Carmichael Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This will also be held at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT on Wednesday, October 12th, 1927, at 5.45 p.m. An Agenda and Balance Sheet will be issued in September.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS., for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

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